


City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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Cover photo by Mark Potter, taken from the Stephens Building.



ON THE COVER—The Broadway Bridge connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock across the Arkansas River is now open to vehicles nearly a month ahead of schedule, thanks to mild winter weather. Read about the new landmark inside on page six. Read also about the infrastructure challenges that face our cities, state, and nation; Russellville’s participation in **#AMLMoves** and Walk Across Arkansas; the opening of the Ghanaian Consulate in Little Rock and more.—atm

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Dear Friends,
March Madness is here, and I'm not talking about the NCAA Tournament. I'm talking about the mad rush to get things accomplished before March is over and before April deadlines. Among the things on our plates are income tax filings, publishing our annual reports, more executive board meetings, and preparing for the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.



Earlier in February we were in Washington, D.C., for the NLC Executive Directors and Presidents Fly-in. The meeting was informative and quite interesting to say the least. We attended a federal advocacy briefing and participated in discussions about unfunded mandates, EPA regulations, closing the online sales tax loop hole, and protecting municipal bonds. We were invited in February to attend the opening of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Ghana in Little Rock. Read more about this grand occasion in this month's issue.

As we move through this month I hope that you will remember to stay in contact with your legislators and to stay informed about legislation affecting our municipalities on the Legislative Action Center on the League's website, www.arml.org

We're looking forward to a busy March, and don't forget: Registration and hotel room blocks for the upcoming 83rd Convention in Little Rock opens at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harry Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harry Brown
Mayor, Stephens
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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The new Broadway Bridge as seen from the Stephens Building.

New Broadway Bridge opens ahead of schedule

Thanks to a winter of what the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department called “great bridge-building weather,” the new Broadway Bridge, which spans the Arkansas River and connects Little Rock and North Little Rock, is now open, at least to vehicular traffic. AHTD Director Scott Bennett, flanked by the two cities’ mayors and members of the state Highway Commission, held a brief news conference at the center of the bridge on Monday, Feb. 27 to announce that the bridge would open sooner than expected.

The bridge was set to open to traffic on March 29, but Massman Construction Co. of Kansas City, Mo., and AHTD crews managed to beat the original deadline by about three weeks, at least for north-south vehicular traffic. Drivers can expect about two more months of work on the bridge now that it is open to vehicles. That work includes the completion of the exit ramp to Highway 10 and the bicycle and pedestrian ramps and pathways.

“Massman Construction has done a great job,” Bennett said. “Our crews have done a great job in making sure everything is really ready to go. As you can see, it is going to be a great addition to Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County.”

The old, 93-year-old bridge was closed to traffic on Sept. 28, 2016, and was dismantled as the new bridge’s steel arches were constructed on adjacent barges. To meet the 180-day closure deadline, construction crews were for a time working 24/7 schedules, according to AHTD spokesman Danny Straessle.

A formal ribbon cutting and commissioning of the bridge is scheduled for April 6 in the parking lot west of the bridge and Dickey-Stephens Park on the North Little Rock side. The event both coincides with opening day of the 2017 season of the Arkansas Travelers and the 100th anniversary of the day the United States formally declared war on Germany in World War I. The old bridge had been dedicated to Arkansas veterans of that war. 🏛️



AHTD Director Scott Bennett, center, flanked by Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, left, and North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith, right, credits the mild winter weather for the speedier-than-expected Broadway Bridge construction.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN AND MARK POTTER.



It took several rounds of implosions and some additional pulling by tugboats to bring down the old bridge. The steel span and structural upgrades to the bridge made in 1974 proved more difficult to demolish than the original, concrete portions of the bridge, which dated back to 1923.

America's public infrastructure: a national report card

By Roger L. Kemp, MPA, MBA, PhD

The term “infrastructure” refers to the basic facilities and installations necessary for society to operate. These include public transportation and communication systems (highways, airports, bridges, telephone lines, cellular telephone towers, post offices); educational and health facilities; water, gas, and electrical systems (dams, power lines, power plants, aqueducts); and such miscellaneous facilities as prisons, national park structures, and other improvements to real property owned by higher levels of government.

In the United States, the infrastructure components are divided into the private and public sectors. Public facilities are owned by the municipal, county, state, and federal governments. There are also special district authorities, such as the Port Authority of New York and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, among many others.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)—the only professional membership organization in the nation that grades our nation’s public infrastructure—recognizes the major categories of our government’s infrastructure: aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, ports, parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, solid waste, transit, and wastewater.

Managing and financing America's infrastructure

All levels of government are facing a new era of capital financing and infrastructure management. Revenues that once were available for capital construction, restoration, and maintenance have either diminished or evaporated entirely in recent years. Portions of the public infrastructure that were once adequate are now experiencing signs of distress, even decay, with no end in sight to the ongoing deterioration of our nation’s public infrastructure.

Local, state, and federal governments are subject to unprecedented fiscal demands for public services in an environment of limited taxation and dwindling financial resources. State government deficits are increasing. At the same time, the federal deficit is at an all-time high—exacerbated by the fact that our nation is concurrently suffering from a weakened economy. These negative fiscal circumstances, experts believe, may continue during the coming years.

Congested highways, overflowing sewers, and corroding bridges, are constant reminders of the looming infrastructure crisis that jeopardizes our nation’s economic prosperity as well as the quality of life for our citizens.

With new grades published in 2013, the condition of our nation’s infrastructure has shown little to no improvement since receiving a collective grade of a C- in 1988 and with some areas even sliding toward failing grades.

ASCE’s *2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure* assesses the same categories as it did in the previous survey. The grade comparisons of the various categories of America’s infrastructure between ASCE’s original 1988 survey and its most recent survey in 2013 are highlighted below in alphabetical order:

- Aviation—Received a grade of B- in 1988, and a grade of D in 2013.
- Bridges—Received a grade of C+ in 1988, and a grade of C+ in 2013.
- Dams—While not graded in 1988, they received a grade of D in 2013.
- Drinking Water—Received a grade of B- in 1988, and a grade of D in 2013.
- Energy—While not graded in 1988, this category received a grade of D+ in 2013.
- Hazardous Waste—This category receive a grade of D in 1988 and D in 2013.
- Inland Waterways—While not graded in 1988, they received a grade of D- in 2013.
- Levees—While not graded in 1988, they received a grade of D- in 2013.
- Parks and Recreation—While not graded in 1988, they received a grade of C- in 2013.
- Ports—While not graded in 1988, they received a grade of C in 2013.
- Rail—While not graded in 1988, this category received a grade of C+ in 2013.
- Roads—Received a grade of C+ in 1988, and a grade of D in 2013.
- Schools—While not graded in 1988, this category received a grade of D in 2013.
- Solid Waste—Received a grade of C- in 1988, and a grade of B- in 2013. This is the only infrastructure category to increase its grade since the original “graded” evaluation was done some 25 years ago.
- Transit—Received a grade of C- in 1988, and a grade of D in 2013.
- Wastewater—Received a grade of C in 1988, and a grade of D in 2013.

The average public infrastructure grade for our nation was a C- in 1988 and a D+ in 2013.

ENERGY	D+	SCHOOLS	D	PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION	C-
TRANSIT	D	ROADS	D	RAIL	C+
PORTS	C	INLAND WATERWAYS	D-	BRIDGES	C+
AVIATION	D	WASTEWATER	D	SOLID WASTE	B-
LEVEES	D-	HAZARDOUS WASTE	D	DRINKING WATER	D
DAMS	D	Information provided by ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure (www.infrastructurereportcard.org).			

In short, U.S. roads, bridges, sewers, and dams, are crumbling and need a \$2.2 trillion overhaul, but prospects for improvement are grim. This is the amount of money necessary over the next five years to restore and rebuild major components of our nation's public infrastructure. The nation's drinking water system alone needs a public investment of \$11 billion annually to replace facilities and to comply with regulations to meet our future drinking water needs. Federal grant funding in 2005 was only 10 percent of this amount. As a result, aging wastewater systems are discharging billions of gallons of untreated sewage into surface waters each year, according to ASCE's report.

And the signs of our deteriorating infrastructure go on! Poor roads cost motorists \$54 billion a year in repairs and operating costs, while American's spent 3.5 billion hours a year stuck in traffic jams. The country's power transmission system also needs to be modernized, the report said. While demand continues to rise, transmission capacity failed to keep pace and actually fell by two percent in 2001. As of 2003, 27 percent of the nation's bridges were structurally deficient or obsolete, a slight improvement from the 28.5 percent in 2000. It is alarming to note, but since 1998 the number of unsafe dams in the country rose by 33 percent to more than 3,500.

Several national professional associations have officially endorsed ASCE's *2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, including the following ones:

- American Public Works Association (APWA)
- National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)
- National Heavy and Highway Alliance (NHHA)
- American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
- Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)

For a complete list of the endorsing organizations, refer to ASCE's website (www.asce.org).

National leadership is needed

The views expressed by many experts who research and write on infrastructure issues point to a general agreement on the magnitude and complexity of this problem. Little agreement exists, however, on a consensus of how to achieve a comprehensive nationwide solution to restoring and maintaining America's public infrastructure. One point, though, seems obviously clear. The necessary leadership and policy direction required to

Key Facts About Arkansas Infrastructure

	AVIATION —77 public-use airports
	BRIDGES —880 Of the 12,748 bridges are structurally deficient
	BRIDGES —\$55.90 million in bridge funds came from the Federal Highway Bridge Fund in 2011
	DAMS —82% of the state regulated dams have an Emergency Action Plan
	DAMS —114 high hazard dams
	DRINKING WATER —\$6.1 billion in drinking water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years
	ENERGY —5.283 gigawatt-hours of renewable energy every year, ranking it 18th
	HAZARDOUS WASTE —9 sites on the National Priorities List
	INLAND WATERWAYS —1,860 miles of inland waterways, ranking it 3rd nationally
	LEVEES —1,710 miles of levees
	PORTS —16.4 million short tons of cargo in 2012, ranking it 30th nationally
	PUBLIC PARKS —\$22.0 million of unmet needs for its parks system
	RAIL —25 freight railroads covering 2,797 miles across the state, ranking 25th nationally by mileage
	ROADS —\$1.1 billion a year in costs to motorists from driving on roads in need of repair, which is \$497 /yr per motorist
	ROADS —8,044 of the state's 100,123 public roads are major roads, and 14% are in poor condition
	SCHOOLS —\$4.5 billion in estimated school infrastructure funding needs
	TRANSIT —4.6 million annual unlinked passenger trips via transit systems including bus, transit, and commuter trains
	WASTEWATER —\$470.0 million in wastewater infrastructure needs over the next 20 years

properly address this national issue must come from the highest level of government. It is only within a national policy framework that states, counties, and cities, can work together to improve the current condition of our public works facilities. Local and state governments alone, because of their many diverse policies, multiple budget demands, and varied fiscal constraints, cannot be relied upon to achieve the comprehensive financial solution required to solve this national problem.

The prevailing philosophy of our national government has been to let the lower levels of government (states, counties, and cities) solve their own infrastructure problems, regardless of the nature of their complexity or the magnitude of the funds needed. If a solution is to be forthcoming, the political posture of our government needs to become more positive and proactive. Assertive federal government leadership must make the difficult policy decisions, as well as approve the funding required, to solve our country's infrastructure problem. Fundamental changes are needed to redirect national priorities about how public infrastructure investments are made. Officials at all levels of government must recognize that they can no longer build public facilities without adequately maintaining them in future years.

The future

As the severity of this issue escalates, and citizens become more aware of the increased costs of postponing a decision on public infrastructure, taxpayers may become more politically involved in solving this issue in the future. Local taxpayers cannot be expected, however, to foot the entire bill for a solution, since the majority of our country's capital assets have been constructed over the past several decades—some more than a century ago—and frequently with the assistance of grant funds from the federal government. Cities, counties, and states have relative degrees of wealth based on their taxing capacity, bonding levels and ratings, and budgetary reserves. Because of this, many lower levels of government do not have the financial capability, even with increased taxation, to adequately address those issues related to restoring and maintaining our nation's infrastructure. This bullet is “too big to bite” by lower levels of government alone.

It is safe to say that most citizens throughout the country already feel overtaxed by all levels of government. Even though citizens may be willing to assist financially, a major redirection of federal government funds will be required for a truly comprehensive and coordinated nationwide response to our country's outstanding infrastructure issues and problems.

Even with some additional taxes and user fees, funding will be limited from the lower levels of government. For this reason, argue those who deal with infrastructure issues, national priorities must be established for the replacement and restoration of capital facilities for all

levels of government, starting with those projects that are necessary to ensure the public's security, health, and safety. Funds from existing federal grant programs must be targeted for infrastructure projects nationwide, such as those from less-important operational programs with limited or only special-interest constituencies.

To the President: Our nation is not “on the road to ruin,” as some experts explain, but merely going through the transition period required to properly sort out and arrive at a politically acceptable long-term solution to this critical and complex policy issue that plagues all levels of government—federal, state, county, and city alike.

If the U.S. infrastructure is allowed to deteriorate even further in the future, possibly to the point of decay, the cost of resolving this issue will escalate significantly in future years for all taxpayers. If this happens, economic development programs will also continue to suffer, and the revenues they could generate will not be available to assist in restoring our public infrastructure. For these reasons, I strongly urge the President to make the restoration of America's public infrastructure a national funding priority.

The previous administration, headed by President Barack Obama, with the assistance of Congress, passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This legislation, for the first time in a number of years, includes substantial funding (upwards of \$150 billion) for public investment in new infrastructure projects, as well as the restoration of our nation's existing infrastructure network.

This federal stimulus package was certainly a step in the right direction. It was not funded, however, during the following fiscal year. Now that this issue has been acknowledged as a national priority by the new President, hopefully additional funding will be made available for this purpose during the coming year. Such legislation and funding will prove that America is “not on the road to ruin” but merely “on the road to recovery.”

[Note: To develop the *2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, ASCE assembled a panel of over 30 of the nation's leading civil engineers, who analyzed hundreds of studies, reports, and other sources, and surveyed more than 2,000 engineers throughout the nation to determine the condition of America's infrastructure. Base grades were then reviewed by ASCE's Advisory Council. For more details about this process, refer to ASCE's website (www.asce.org).]

Dr. Roger L. Kemp, MPA, MBA, PhD., has been a career city manager in California, Connecticut, and New Jersey. He has been an author, editor, and contributing author to nearly 50 books focusing on America's cities, including their public infrastructure. He is a Distinguished Adjunct Professor, Executive MPA Program, Golden Gate University; and a Professional in Residence, Department of Public Management, University of New Haven. Roger can be reached via email (rlkbsr@snet.net).

#RussellvilleMoves: Walk Across Arkansas with Mayor Horton

Russellville Mayor Randy Horton celebrated his birthday on Feb. 27. It was fate as that exact date was this year's scheduled kick-off for the local Walk Across Arkansas program through the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.



From left, Mayor Randy Horton, the League's David Baxter, and Alderman Phil Sims.

Earlier this year, in his State of the City Address, Horton specifically mentioned Russellville's good rate standing with the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF). For a city to cover 86 percent of its employees and maintain the best premium rate for health, dental, and vision coverage is no small feat.

Late in 2016, Mayor Horton requested the League's new wellness training program, #AMLMoves for his employees. #AMLMoves proved to be very useful and equipped Russellville with a wellness roadmap specifically designed to meet the needs of the city's employees, he said.

"In a coincidence of fortunate timing, this program takes place as the City of Russellville is expanding our efforts to promote and encourage health and wellness among our workforce using #AMLMoves," Horton said.

Partnering with League Health and Safety Coordinator David Baxter, the city is working to improve the health of city employees in an effort to control claims submitted to the MHBF. Few employers have the unique ability to directly influence the soaring costs of medical coverage, but for cities and towns that participate in the MHBF, it can be done.

Local programs and initiatives can easily be incorporated into a city's wellness plan. Russellville's collaboration with their county extension office is a great example of what can be accomplished in the way of boosting employee wellness, creating a sense of community and fostering relationships between local government and entities or agencies in your hometown.

"My knees need to get a little more experience to walking," Horton said. "It's something I need to do for myself anyway, and I am trying to get our employees to join me. This is a fun way to exercise with a little spirited competition."

"Walk Across Arkansas with Mayor Horton" was a success in Russellville and he strongly encourages other cities in Arkansas to become #AMLMoves municipalities. Contact the League today to schedule your wellness training and get your city staff on the right path to improved health. 🏃‍♂️



From left, League Health and Safety Coordinator and County Extension Agent Jeri Vanglider.



Mayor Horton also celebrated his birthday during the kickoff to Walk Across Arkansas.

PHOTOS BY WHITNEE V. BULLERWELL

Association of Counties, League of Cities join forces with Public Technology Institute

A new partnership to bring more advanced tech programming to local officials is “more than just the shaking of hands.”



By Jake Williams

A new project by three local government advocacy groups will soon create new technology education and collaboration opportunities for cities and counties.

The partnership by the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Public Technology Institute (PTI) will “bolster the ability” of the organizations to address technology issues, the groups announced in February. Under the partnership, NACo will house PTI’s employees and will control the group’s administrative operations. In exchange, PTI will help both NACo and NLC develop technology resources for their respective members.

“We bridge between cities and counties with our variety of services. We’re not here to replace anything, we’re here to enhance what already exists,” PTI CEO and Executive Director Alan Shark said. “What makes this particularly special to us is that it’s more than just the shaking of hands—we have an action agenda.”

The partnership kicked off in February with collaboration around NACo’s legislative summit. The Public Technology Institute will help coordinate three technology-related events in Washington, D.C.: the Technology and Innovation Symposium, the Chief Information Officer Forum, and a Technology Summit.

“As we all know, we’re living in a dynamic world with real challenges and opportunities, and PTI is a great organization with many decades of history of looking at the policy and practice of technology,” NACo Executive Director Matt Chase said. “PTI really has a dynamic board of directors and membership that brings together policymakers and technology leadership.”

PTI will also work alongside NLC to bring together city officials and leaders around new technology programs and initiatives. In fact, Clarence Anthony, NLC’s executive director, said PTI would help play the “connector” role and bring together several different groups of city officials and leaders.

“This is a great opportunity for local governments to be able to get the information that they need to make their communities better,” Anthony said. “We need to make sure that local government officials and leaders understand how they can use technology to improve their services and operations.”

As PTI helps organize programming and events for both NACo and NLC, the group will continue to host its own events and programming separate from the other two associations. Shark will remain the organization’s executive director and CEO.

This article appeared originally on StateScoop.com and is reprinted with permission. Contact the author at jake.williams@statescoop.com.



The State Aid City Street Committee has approved 413 requests for city street overlay projects totalling \$93.9 million of State Aid Street funds to date.

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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The 2017 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

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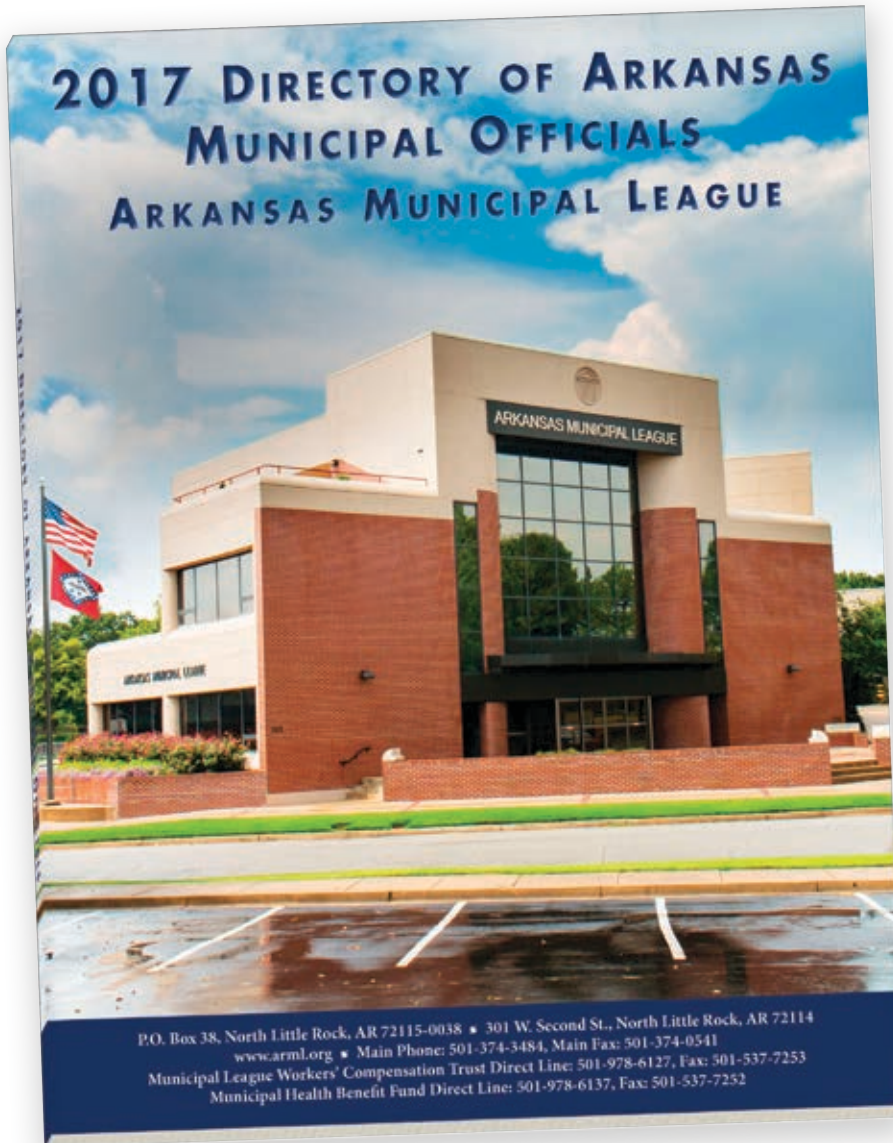
Don't be without the best resource for information on Arkansas cities. The Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials is published annually by the Arkansas Municipal League.

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Thank you!

Thanks to a record 95 percent response rate from Arkansas cities and towns, the 2017 *Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials*, available soon, is the most comprehensive directory to date. The directory, published each year by the League, provides key information on each incorporated municipality in Arkansas. It includes the names of elected officials and department heads, population, contact information, and more. To order copies of the new directory online, visit www.arml.org/store or call (501) 374-3484.



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Changes to 2017 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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

Oxford

Delete	M	Greg Stuart
Add	M	Stephen Stevenson

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Arkansas Delta Byways recognizes tourism achievements

JONESBORO – Arkansas Delta Byways (ADB), the tourism promotion association for 15 counties in eastern Arkansas, presented its 17th annual Delta Awards recognizing tourism achievement in the region on Feb. 17, during festivities at the Cooper Alumni Center at Arkansas State University.

Joe David Rice, tourism director for Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and Dr. Ruth A. Hawkins, executive director of both ADB and Arkansas Heritage SITES at ASU, presented remarks. Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin gave the welcome address, and Marcel Hanzlik, president of Arkansas Delta Byways, served as master of ceremonies.



Hanzlik

Categories (winners marked with an asterisk):

Media Support Award

- * Richard Benson, *The Morning Show*, KXJK/KBFC Radio, Forrest City, St. Francis County
- Terry Hawkins, Editor, *Dumas Clarion*, Desha County
- KASU *Bluegrass Monday*, Craighead and Greene Counties

Hospitality Award

- Delta Resort, McGehee, Desha County
- * Raymond Willie, Pillow-Thompson House, Helena, Phillips County
- Rhoda's Hot Tamales, Lake Village, Chicot County

Entrepreneur Award

- City Market, Piggott, Clay County
- Edwardian Inn, Helena, Phillips County

- * Shelby's Sweet Corn, Marked Tree, Poinsett County

Tourism/Promotion Support Award

- Friends of the Historic White River Bridge, Clarendon, Monroe County
- * Lights of the Delta, Blytheville, Mississippi County
- Main Street Helena, Phillips County

Festival/Event of the Year

- * Big River Crossing, West Memphis, Crittenden County
- Tinkerfest, ASU Museum, Craighead County
- Writing Retreat for Veterans, Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center, Piggott, Clay County



Officials and citizens of Piggott.

Boot Strap Award

- "Life on the Mississippi," Delta Gateway Museum, Blytheville, Mississippi County
- * Our Lady of the Lake Altar Society Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Lake Village, Chicot County
- Christmas in the Park Lighting Ceremony, Marianna Chamber of Commerce, Lee County



Marianna Mayor Jimmy Williams, right, his wife Wanda, left, and their daughter Kim, center, director of Arkansas's Great River Road.

Cultural Heritage Award

- * Front Porch Blues Bash, Helena, Phillips County
- * Parkin Archeological State Park, Cross County
- * Seark Concert Association Smarts Program, Monticello, Drew County



Host city Mayor Harold Perrin, left, and Dr. Ruth Hawkins, second from left, were honored to host the awards in Jonesboro, home of Arkansas State University and the Arkansas Delta Byways program.

Outstanding Member Award

- * Christy Murphy of Gillett in Arkansas County


Tourism person of the Year

- * Joe David Rice



Officials and citizens of West Memphis.

Arkansas Delta Byways sponsored the event with support from the Jonesboro School of Art and the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce. ADB is the official tourism promotion association recognized by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Member counties include Arkansas, Chicot, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Greene, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, and St. Francis.

ADB is based on the ASU campus in Jonesboro and receives administrative support through the university's Arkansas Heritage Sites Office. For more details, contact Arkansas Delta Byways at (870) 972-2803. 

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Register now for the Congressional City Conference, the federal advocacy conference of the National League of Cities!

MARCH 11-15, 2017 WASHINGTON, DC
Visit ccc.nlc.org for conference details and to register.

#AMLMoves is growing strong

By David Baxter, League staff



The New Year brings with it both increased opportunities and challenges. If you have ever made a commitment to improve your health, you know the excitement of setting your sights on lofty goals and the anxiety of pushing past our comfort zones. One of the most difficult and rewarding things we can do is go beyond our self-imposed lifestyle boundaries.

Creating a healthier and more active lifestyle does not happen by chance, and it certainly does not happen overnight. It takes deliberate action by setting small, attainable fitness goals; increasing awareness of personal habits in calorie consumption; and surrounding yourself with a positive support system. The Arkansas Municipal League is committed to providing the positive support needed to its members through leadership and education using #AMLMoves, the League's wellness program.



The voluntary #AMLMoves wellness program made many strides in 2016. For instance, the cities of Waldron, Prescott, Sherwood, Farmington, Russellville, Clarksville, and North Little Rock Sewer invited the nurses from the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) and myself to educate over 160 employees on valuable health and wellness related topics. Additionally, the cities of Sherwood, Cabot, Bryant, Maumelle, and Benton Utilities hosted wellness fairs designed to create awareness of and access to health education for employees. These educational resources are all a part of #AMLMoves and the League's commitment to the health and wellness of its members.

League staff members continue to inspire and lead by setting and attaining their own personal wellness and fitness goals. Here at League headquarters, our workout equipment is used daily. I consistently see our staff walking on treadmills, using the elliptical machine, and performing strength training both with dumbbells and with the weight-training machine.

Recently, we added a TV and DVD player to our workout room. I have found this type of fitness tool to be very important because it allows for guided cardio and stretching workouts to be performed within a smaller space. This also allows for variety in fitness, which is important in maintaining motivation.

Along with the fitness component of #AMLMoves, many of our staffers are taking specific steps to create health and wellness from the inside out with nutrition. Many of our staff are making a conscious effort to limit caloric intake and soda consumption. They have also started using smart phone apps to help stay on track and make sure they are balancing their energy intake (calorie consumption) with their energy output (calories burned) on a daily basis. As a result, most have reported increased energy, improved sleep, decreased body fat, and an increased overall well being.

I encourage all cities and towns that are participants in the League's MHBF to become a #AMLMoves municipality and lead your staff in becoming more aware of their health. Doing so creates a healthier, positive, and more active workforce. Please give me a call to schedule your informative training session today! #AMLMoves is growing. Will your city grow with us?



David Baxter is the League's Health and Safety Coordinator. Email David at dbaxter@arml.org, or call 501-374-3484 Ext. 110.

Making the best of seasonal allergies

By Chelsey J. Smith, M.D.

With trees and flowers blooming in an array of beautiful colors, the days getting longer and the temperatures getting warmer, spring is one of the most anticipated times of year.

Still, for many it's nothing to look forward to as it marks a season of itchy, watery eyes, runny noses, congestion, and sneezing. Many of these issues are caused by the return of pollen, a major springtime allergen.

Left untreated and unaddressed, seasonal allergies can cause quite a disturbance in your daily life. However, there are precautions and treatments you can take to help diminish your symptoms.

Daily saline rinses are important

Saline rinses help flush allergens you breathe, keeping your nasal passages clear and providing relief from your allergies. They also keep your nasal mucous membrane moist, helping you avoid nosebleeds from your nasal passages getting too dry.

It's best to complete saline rinses using a NeilMed bottle in place of a neti pot. The bottle creates propulsion, pushing the saline into your sinus cavities as well as your nasal cavities. This more effectively flushes the allergens from your nose, providing better alleviation.

Neti pots are not necessarily bad; however, they are depend on gravity and don't usually provide the same results as a NeilMed bottle. Imagine a race between two boats in which one is propelled by oars and the other is motorized.

Steroid nasal sprays are also a wonderful defense against allergies. The spray interrupts the kinds of cells that control your reaction to allergens. It can decrease the level of those cells and, unlike other treatment options like an antihistamine, it has a prolonged effectiveness.

Be prepared

If you're susceptible to allergies when you're outdoors for an extended period—whether for a walk or hike or to do yard work—be prepared. Try taking an antihistamine beforehand and be sure to do a saline rinse before and after.

For yard work, it's always best to wear a mask. This helps prevent you from directly inhaling many allergens and can lessen some of the symptoms.

Allergies, common cold, and sinusitis: knowing the difference

It's fairly common for my patients to have trouble differentiating between a sinus infection, allergies, and the common cold. Many of the symptoms can be similar, including drainage and congestion. However, each condition has some unique features.

With allergies, you'll usually see clear drainage and nasal congestion, along with itchy, watery eyes, and in some cases, hives. These symptoms will also continue for as long as the allergen is present.

With the common cold, the drainage can be yellow and you'll normally have other issues like fatigue and a low-grade fever. It's also normal for symptoms to go away within a couple weeks.

For a sinus infection, there are three main symptoms: green or yellow drainage, nasal congestion, and facial pain or pressure. If these symptoms persist more than seven to 10 days, it's time to talk with your doctor about possible antibiotic treatment.

Much of the confusion for my patients is between sinus infection and allergies. There is a link between the two, as allergy issues can be coupled with recurrent or chronic sinus infection. Swelling in the nasal cavity as a result of allergies can congest the tiny windows that drain your sinus cavities, causing bacterial infection and sinusitis.

Take action

Allergy problems can be quite a nuisance if left untreated. Instead of enjoying all that springtime has to offer, whether it's a hike in the woods, a walk in the park, or a picnic with family and friends, the symptoms can leave you miserable and desperate for relief. Talking with your physician about the proper treatment method is incredibly beneficial. Most options only add a few minutes to your daily routine and can greatly lessen the effects of your allergies.



Chelsey J. Smith, M.D., is Assistant Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, UAMS College of Medicine.

The importance of wayfinding signage

By Shelby Fiegel

If a visitor unfamiliar with your community came into your city, would they be able to easily find their way around?

Locals who are very familiar with their communities may not think about how difficult it can be for a visitor to travel throughout the area. Locals know how to get from point A to point B, so wayfinding signs may not be perceived as a community issue. Yet, those outside of the community may have difficulty getting around town, even with GPS assistance. This inability to navigate throughout a given community can cause serious problems and inhibit a city's growth.

Signage plays many important roles in our cities. From the basic necessities of crosswalks, road junctions, parking, and street names, to business and attraction signs that entice customers, they are a critical element in our lives. The importance of good wayfinding signage tends to be overlooked by local officials when forming community development goals for their city. The easier it is for visitors to identify where a city's attractions and amenities are, the more likely they are to spend time and money in the community. If visitors have a difficult time navigating a city, they may give up, go home and never return.

In addition to the economic effect wayfinding signage has on a city, signage is also a good way to establish a city's identity or brand. Signage should utilize the same colors and fonts as the city logo. Creating a consistent message through the city's brand will influence public perception, make investment in your community attractive, support tourism activities, and provide citizens with a sense of identity.



Wayfinding signage can help ensure visitors don't miss your city's attractions and amenities.

If a city wants to increase tourism dollars and attract visitors, assess signage from an outsider's vantage point. Are there signs for downtown, schools, the business park, municipal buildings, and other amenities? What gaps or omissions are there? Get a group together and drive around town with these thoughts in mind to identify areas where there is a lack of appropriate signage.

The Northwest Arkansas Council realized the importance of wayfinding signage and developed a signage plan for six cities in Northwest Arkansas. After the city of Bentonville added new signage centered around Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Eureka Springs, Fayetteville, Lowell, Rogers, Siloam Springs, and Springdale followed suit and established similar signage, but with unique colors and qualities for each city.

"First and foremost, signage is important because it relays information about your city that visitors may not be aware of," Mayor Butch Berry of Eureka Springs said. "I think the benefit of having consistent signage is that people know exactly what to look for. Having signage

that is easy to read, has a simple design and does not share too much information that could overcrowd the mind is essential. Unfortunately our highway system is not designed to promote many of our communities' assets, such as our historic downtowns, so it is up to us to highlight what we have. Consistent, branded signage is a great way to bring visitors off the highway and into our communities."

Not all cities have the resources to immediately create and implement a robust signage plan. Even so, any community can start small and build up. The city of Lonoke is in the process of determining their signage needs. Lonoke's Planning and Zoning Commission, led by commissioners Michael Florence and Karen Dill, undertook an internal study of their community. The Commission first researched types of signage and case studies. Then the group conducted a driving tour, gathered photographic documentation, and created a map of preliminary locations for each type of sign they need in their community. The Commission then presented their findings to the community and have since engaged with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department to discuss their right of way regulation and signage program.

Planning Commission Chairman Ryan Biles said, "A primary goal of this multi-faceted study is to describe and create methods to connect the heart of our community, historic downtown Lonoke, to the town's primary entry points at the Interstate 40 interchanges. Part of our vision is the enhancement of our primary pathways and a physical unity between all areas of town. It is Lonoke's hope that well-designed, visually cohesive signage will be a contributing factor in this unity."

The work the Commission did has been a supporting document for the citizen-led work of the Kick Start Lonoke Action Team focused on beautification and recreation efforts. This Action Team will include the identification of local destinations and attractions among its goals for enhancing walkability and navigability along the town's main traffic corridors.

There are many avenues cities across Arkansas can take to ensure their greatest assets do not go unnoticed. Regardless of where you start, remember that wayfinding signage is a key to making Arkansas cities and towns places in which people want to live, work, and play.



Shelby Fiegel is project coordinator of UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development. Contact her by phone at 501-450-5269, by email at sfiegel@uca.edu, or visit the Center's website at www.uca.edu/cced.

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 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 83rd 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.



Structures such as this once served as boarding houses that furnished safe homes and meals for many first-time entrants into the job market.

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Affordable housing a lurking issue for our cities

By Jim von Tungeln

Consider theories. Some, such as those concerning thermodynamics, become scientific laws. Some, like those concerning gravity, change according to the context. Some, like the so-called “trickle-down theory,” become jokes, in an economic sense, for Internet pranksters and late-night comedians. For planners, that particular theory simply recalls a more optimistic era in our approach to housing.

A few of us in the profession remember when the trickle-down theory was one of the standard views toward planning for affordable housing. It was supposed to happen this way: Those entering into the housing market would purchase a home they could afford, most likely an inexpensive one. As incomes grew, they would move into a better abode. This would free up the “starter home” for another family. The cycle would continue vertically, all would be happy, and cities would flourish without slums.

Well, it didn’t work out that way.

First, the Baby Boomers didn’t buy into the idea of purchasing the small (800-1,000 square-foot) homes their parents had occupied as a first home following World War Two. The kids generally held out for a three-bedroom, two-bath place in the growing suburbs.

Second, racial discrimination limited choices for some families to older homes, many deficient in original

construction. Thus the marketability of homes in many neighborhoods suffered. This was exacerbated by the now-outlawed practice of the financial “red-lining” of entire sections of older cities.

This situation also meant that families with such limited housing choices tended to remain in homes, in many cases family homes, instead of joining in the upward movement of housing quality.

Instead of vertical movement of home ownership, some areas stagnated and became the slums with which many cities struggle to this day. Aggressive code enforcement programs may eliminate unsalvageable housing units, but the market doesn’t always replace them.

Finally, many older “starter homes” are not marketable to new owners, not only because of size, but also design and location. These became rentals. As anyone knows who is familiar with residential rental property knows, the standards of upkeep vary from well-maintained to non-maintained.

The potential crisis in affordable housing is not a local issue. A National League of Cities report published in 2013 identified affordable housing as one of the major needs facing American cities. The 10 Critical Imperatives Facing America’s Cities pointed out the following:

“The Need for Affordable Housing: Foreclosures and vacant houses have destabilized neighborhoods across the country, resulting in increased crime, blight, shrinking local tax bases and more demand for social services. Among the solutions: To stabilize neighborhoods, cities can help to provide mediation between lenders and borrowers, prevent vacant property deterioration and rehabilitate properties for resale or rental.”

A dependable source, Census ACS estimates the median household income of Arkansans at approximately \$42,000 per year, as of 2015. This means half of households make more while half of households make less. A long-accepted rule-of-thumb recommends a top of 36 percent per cent of gross income allocated for housing costs. This would compute to a conservative figure of \$1,260 per month available for housing.

While these figures bode well for the half of households above the median, it doesn't for those below. Individual city leaders can use that figure as a broad gauge as to the number of their households who fall below that median figure.

An informal, i.e. non-scientific, survey of cities around the state indicates a floor of \$600 to \$800 dollars a month for rental units that are decent, safe, and sanitary. This would require a household income of at least \$1,700 per month, or \$20,000 per year, to afford the least expensive market-based rental. This discussion does not take into account subsidized housing. Subject as they are to the vagaries of individual administrations, they might best be viewed as temporary aid.

After taking into account the fact that census estimates place the current median (not lowest) rental in the state at \$1,200, it becomes clear, as reports indicate, that an increasing number of households are paying 50 percent or more of their monthly income for rent. When single-person households with only one wage owner enter the picture, the future looks more dim.

Concerns about affordable housing don't just affect lower-income households. At the height of the “dot-com bubble” in Silicon Valley, entry level workers with starting salaries nearing six figures found that the closest place they could find housing they could afford was 400 miles away. Automobiles and the living rooms of friends provided sleeping quarters for some.

Shortage of affordable housing also affects the rapidly growing parts of our state. In some locations, the Federal Housing Finance Agency reports a change of almost 13 percent in housing costs over the five years culminating in 2015. In one city, the median asking price of a home stands at \$294,000.

It will take a long time for the availability of homes in that area to trickle down to provide access to moderate-income families. In the meantime, service and retail

workers face a long commute from home to workplace. This, in turn, creates more pressure on what are, in most cases, already highly stressed transportation systems.

The cycle goes on. It is hard to think about the looming problems of affordable housing without evoking the image of an iceberg approaching one point off the starboard bow while we dance in the ship's ballroom.

Answers are few, but there are some for starters. The first is to admit the problem and the associated issues, such as traffic, crime, and health. Then we should place affordable housing as a priority in our planning efforts. This, in turn, should support other planning decisions such as resistance to housing based on NIMBYism (not in my back yard).

Of major importance is the need to think creatively. It may well be that Albert Einstein was right when he said, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

On the other hand, some older approaches may be customized to fit new needs. Some writers are suggesting a new look at manufactured homes as a possible source of meeting affordable housing needs in urban settings.

One real estate expert in the Central Arkansas area commented that there are still homes that can be purchased cheaply enough that the monthly mortgage payment is lower than rent prices. The problem is that they need work done on them. Could local governments provide advice and help to households renovating older homes? With appropriate legal advice, and with home-rule provisions currently in place, cities could consider such innovative approaches.

We might even look to the past for answers. Within my lifetime, so-called “boarding houses” provided safe, decent abodes for single workers just entering the work force. Any idea, however archaic it may seem, might prove worth considering. Increasingly, analysts report that young people don't go looking for a job as their first priority. Rather, they look for the place they want to live, and then look there for a job.

Most important of all, elected officials and planning commissioners can profit by learning and staying aware of issues. Urban issues are more complex now than ever. Training and education remain vital necessities for the future if cities are to meet new challenges in planning, particularly planning for housing. Park benches and freeway overpasses don't work too well.



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.



83rd Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, June 14-16, 2017

MONTHS

03

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HOURS

12

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Countdown to Convention.

June 14–16 in Little Rock, AR

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at (501) 978-6105.

Cost for 10' x 10' exhibit space is \$550.
Cost for Large Equipment Space is \$1,100.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 14**

1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Registration and Exhibit Hall Open
Clerks Meeting
Continuing Education Certification Training
Resolutions Committee Meeting
Opening Night Banquet

**THURSDAY
JUNE 15**

7:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Host City Breakfast
Registration Open
Exhibits Open
General Sessions
Luncheon
Concurrent Workshops
Evening Activities TBA

**FRIDAY
JUNE 16**

7:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
7:00 a.m.-Noon
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Noon -1:30 p.m.

Breakfast
Registration Open
General Sessions TBA
Annual Business Meetings
Awards and New Officers' Luncheon

RESOLUTIONS

Suggested Convention Resolutions for consideration at the 83rd Annual Convention should be mailed to:
83rd Convention Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

The deadline for Resolution submission is Monday, May 15.

Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2016-2017 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 82nd Convention.

WANTED: Elected City officials with 25 years of service

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 1993? The League would like to know.

The League will give special recognition to **elected city and town officials** who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 83rd League Convention, June 14-16, in Little Rock.

Names must be submitted to the League by May 15.

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

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 83rd Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

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

The cost this year is \$550 for a regular exhibit space or \$1,100 for a large exhibit space. We cannot guarantee space for companies that do not register before June 1.

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



83rd Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, June 14-16, 2017

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Thursday, June 1, 2017, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 1, 2017 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after June 1, 2017 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **2017 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 1, 2017.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 1, 2017**.
- **Marriott guests:** In order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night's room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)	
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Capital Hotel	
Single/Double	\$189 Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel	
Single/Double	\$139 Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel	
Single/Double	\$109 Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 1, 2017**.
- Rooms in Central Arkansas are subject to a 13.5 or 15 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

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Step 1: Delegate Information

Name:

Title: City of:

Email (required): CC Email:

Address: City:

State: Zip: Phone Number:

Guests will attend: Yes No Name:

Name:

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Contact Name: ICE Phone Number:

Step 2: Payment Information

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Delegate \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Guest \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Pre-registration Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Delegate \$ 175	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Guest \$ 100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Reg. Registration Total \$ _____

• **How are you paying?**

Check

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 83rd Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

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

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card):

Billing address (as it appears on statement):

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

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

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

Marriott Hotel Reservations (877) 759-6290

Capital Hotel Reservations (877) 637-0037 or (501) 374-7474

Doubletree Hotel Reservations (800) 222-8733 or (501) 372-4371

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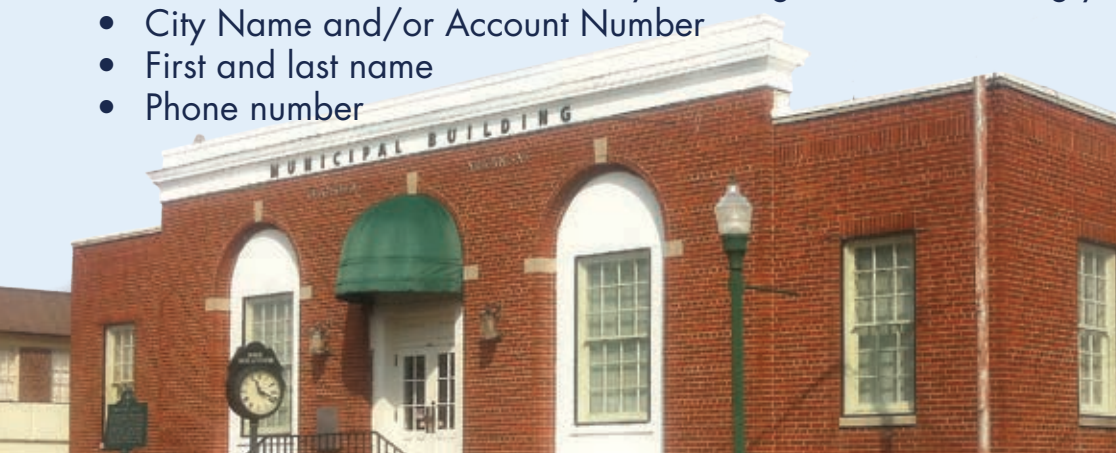
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- Phone number



For more information including a free quote on either of these programs, contact Dale Carter at League headquarters, (501) 978-6123.



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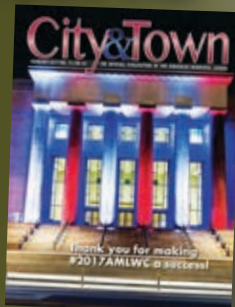


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Fax (501) 537-7252

Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
(501) 978-6127
Fax (501) 537-7253

Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs
(501) 978-6123
Fax (501) 978-6562

Consulate of the Republic of Ghana opens in Arkansas

By Sherman Banks

Little Rock is now a home base of operations for expanding international ties in Africa with the opening in February of a new Ghana Consulate. On Feb. 17 the Honorable Ernest Asaire-Asiedu, Ghana's acting ambassador and head chancery, led a six-person delegation from the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana in Washington, D.C., to open the new consulate, which will serve both Arkansas and the whole Mississippi Delta region. I was honored to accept the position of honorary consul, with all of the authority afforded the position. Also in attendance from Ghana were Prince Kwame Kludjeson, Prince Kofi Kludjeson, and Dr. David K. Addae.

The ambassador spoke of the importance of the consulate as a conduit for working towards sustainable agriculture, economic, tourism, and cultural development. In 2013 Arkansas exported \$5.5 million in products to Ghana. Ghana, on the other hand, exported less than \$20,000 in products to Arkansas. For the year of 2014 Arkansas exported \$1.8 million worth of products to Ghana. Through the commissioning of the consulate the potential is enhanced for growth for Ghana and the Delta region.

Since agriculture is the primary economic strength of Arkansas, it is the expectation of Ghana that the consulate will facilitate bilateral trade between small and medium sized companies in Arkansas and companies in the Republic of Ghana. In addition to economic development, other areas of focus will be the following:

- Provide consular services to Ghanaians in Arkansas and the Delta region, including attestation, legalization of documents, and issuance of travel documents.
- Provide legal assistance to Ghanaians who may be detained.
- Issue Visas to visitors to Ghana traveling from the consular district.
- Contribute to the overall enhancement of the bilateral relations between Ghana and the Delta region.



Ghana's Acting Ambassador Ernest Asaire-Asiedu, right, names Sherman Banks, left, honorary consul of the new Ghanaian Consulate in Little Rock.

The opening of the honorary consulate is an historic event that brings to fruition a long-standing relationship between Ghana and the United States. It will also enhance the possibility of the development of more sister city relationships between Ghanaian and American municipalities. This is the process of improving diplomatic relations one individual, one community at a time, as envisioned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, founder of Sister Cities International.

I implore you as municipal leaders to consider engaging in "citizen diplomacy" and developing a sister city with a municipality or traditional district in Ghana. I and our new honorary consulate can help you achieve that goal.



For more information contact Sherman Banks at (501) 786-2639; email sbanks@aristotle.net; or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.



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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. 

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

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

Expanded opioid and oral fluid testing

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released regulations that expand opioid testing and the allowance of oral fluid testing in specific situations. The new regulations allow federal executive branch agencies to test for additional Schedule II drugs of the Controlled Substances Act (i.e., oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone) in federal drug-free workplace programs.

Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) is being removed from the authorized drugs in Section 3.4, and then the regulations add methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte. ("Analyte" is the term used to identify the substance being tested.) To identify specimens that are adulterated, the pH cutoff is being raised from 3 to 4.

The other regulation change mentioned above is the allowance of federal agencies to authorize the collection of oral fluid as an alternate specimen. The reasoning for this adjustment is to assist when a donor in a federal program is unable to provide a sufficient amount of urine during the collection process. This change would address the issue of federal testing donors who are unable (or unwilling) to provide the required 45 ml of urine in a single sample and must begin a "shy bladder" collection protocol. For a "shy bladder" the donor is permitted to sit at a collection site for the allowable three hours while being monitored by the specimen collector during the wait and being given up to 40 ounces of water to drink, spread evenly for up to the three hours. Often, donors use these situations to "rest on pay". This can be expensive to the employer and cause delays in the donor returning to work. Under this new regulation, if the donor can't provide an appropriate urine sample, they will be instructed to take an oral fluid test. This test can be done immediately, eliminating the "shy bladder" protocol, and will help to get employees back on the job.

Medical Review Officer Regulations are also changing. After the initial MRO certification, the MRO must have requalification training and re-examination at

least every five years. From the experiences we have had interacting with MROs across the country, the principals of a'TEST concur that the recertification and re-examinations are needed.

The HHS Regulations are effective on Oct. 1, 2017.

DOT to allow expanded opioid panel, remove blind specimen requirements for C/TPAs

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has posted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to allow the expanded opioid panel and to remove the blind specimen requirement for Consortia/TPAs. The NPRM coincides with the Mandatory Guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Federal drug-testing programs for urine testing.

In the USDOT proposal, the proposed regulations remove the requirement for employers and Consortia/Third Party Administrators to submit "blind" specimens to monitor the laboratory testing proficiency. Blind specimens are specimen prepared that are either "clean" or "spiked" with one of the illegal drugs on the federal testing panel. Such specimens are certified by a laboratory/supplier as "negative" or "positive" for one of the drugs on the testing panel. Once purchased by the employer or C/TPA, the specimen are packaged along with a fake donor CCF (custody and control form) and sent to lab and represented as a regular "normal" donor test. The lab reports the test result to the MRO and the lab's result is matched with the known specimen results provided by the certifying laboratory. If the testing laboratory misses a result of the submitted "blind" sample the consequences are very involved and stringent.

For many years, employers and C/TPAs were required to submit one "blind" sample for each 100 tests. Over the past few years, this number was decreased to one for each 300 tests. This long-time

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part of the regulations is being eliminated. The DOT comment deadline for this proposed rule-making is March 24, 2017.

These changes are supported by the a'TEST principals. Eliminating "blinds" will not adversely affect the urine-testing program. The addition of oral fluids will have a very good application in securing a specimen in difficult situations.



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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Huntsville's new dryer keeps biosolids out of the landfill and allows the city to recycle, reuse, and sell the material as fertilizer.

Biosolid treatment vital to public health and safety

By Earl W. Carter

Until fairly recently, the options for managing municipal waste have been limited and primarily centered on disposal in the form of incinerating, landfilling, or producing fertilizer for land application.

Biosolids are the treated, stabilized solids derived from the wastewater treatment process. When properly treated, and processed, sewage sludge becomes biosolids, which are nutrient-rich organic materials. Biosolids can be recycled and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth. Effective sewage sludge and biosolids management options help ensure that useful materials are recycled on land and harmful materials are not released to bodies of water. By treating sewage sludge, it becomes biosolids that can be used as valuable fertilizer, instead of taking up space in a landfill or other disposal facility.

The practice of landfilling biosolids could potentially present issues for many municipalities throughout the U.S. because of many landfill operations ceasing to accept municipal waste biosolids. The Cherokee Nation landfill near Northwest Arkansas (in Oklahoma) is just

one local landfill that has stopped accepting municipal waste from Arkansas.

Many experts predict continued closures to biosolids waste entirely. The Environmental Protection Agency document "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling & Disposal in the U.S.: Facts & Figures for 2012" states, "While the number of U.S. landfills has steadily declined over the years, the average landfill size has increased." The national trend is that landfills are becoming larger, but fewer in number. Landfills do get full though! Secondary to availability is the increasing cost of landfill disposal. Tipping fees, hauling fees, and associated charges become costly to many municipalities.

Because of this, we are seeing the industry experience a deviation from a treatment-and-disposal approach to one of recovering resources. In Springdale, for example, the city is in the process of increasing its disposal options. By in-house reduction of contaminants, vector attractants, pathogens, and moisture content to levels acceptable to the EPA, municipal sludge producers can give or sell fertilizer product to residential or agricultural customers in a responsible manner. Springdale Water

Utilities is currently dewatering waste activated sludge with four belt filter presses, and is also in the preliminary design stage of implementing a new dryer system.

This trend of cities focusing on reducing landfill use and increasing recycling is becoming more prevalent throughout the Northwest Arkansas area with Fayetteville, Rogers, Bentonville, Springdale, and Huntsville all currently having systems that reuse stabilized biosolids rather than sending them to a landfill.

Municipalities have a wide variety of options available to them when it comes to how they can process biosolids. Huntsville, for example, recently made upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant, adding a biosolids dryer. The sludge is conveyed from an existing belt press and pumped to a Wyssmont Turbodryer direct-fired thermal dryer, the first of its kind to be installed in Arkansas. The Turbodryer gently moves the product through stacked trays, and discharges the finished product to meet a 40CFR 503, Class A EQ-compliant quality that will be sold. (The Part 503 rule provides comprehensive requirements for the management of biosolids generated during the process of treating municipal wastewater. The Class A is a designation for biosolids that meet strenuous contaminant, vector, and pathogen standards set by the EPA.)

The City of Rogers upgraded its wastewater treatment plant around 2012, installing a centrifuge that dewater waste activated sludge to 17 percent dry solids before conveying it to an indirect fired thermal dryer. The centrifuge uses electricity to spin the waste activated sludge, removing excess water. This centrifuge is unique in the region, has a small footprint, and is completely enclosed. The sludge is then conveyed to a Thermaflite oil-heated dryer that has metal conveyors that contact the sludge. The hot conveyor flites evaporate the water from the sludge, creating an EPA 503 Class A EQ-Compliant quality biosolids product that is then sold. Previously, the city dewatered its biosolids before they were taken to landfill sites.

Bentonville made the decision 20 years ago to treat its biosolids differently. The city currently dewater waste activated sludge with a belt filter press. A portion of the dewatered sludge is used in a composting operation, and the rest is taken to landfills. The composting operation mixes dewatered sludge with yard waste in order to create a Class A product that is given away.

In 2005, Fayetteville installed a solar drying system at its wastewater treatment plant, then, in 2007, installed a thermal drying system. After belt presses are utilized to dewater waste activated sludge, the city uses a combined system of solar and thermal drying to finish the process. Fayetteville has two plants that each use belt filter presses. The city then hauls dewatered sludge from both wastewater treatment plants to a common biosolids

facility where the sludge is combined and placed in the solar drying chambers. Once the product is finished, the city sells the biosolids.

“The collection and treatment of domestic sewage and wastewater is vital to public health and clean water,” according to the EPA at www.epa.gov/npdes/municipal-wastewater. “It is among the most important factors responsible for the general level of good health enjoyed in the U.S. Sewers collect sewage and wastewater from homes, businesses and industries, and deliver it to wastewater treatment facilities before it is discharged to water bodies or land, or reused.”

One of the more important factors to consider in the production of exceptional quality biosolids for public use is the economic factors involved and justification by reduction of final disposal costs. These costs continue to decrease with each project as production efficiencies continually increase with experience.



Earl W. Carter, is a Project Manager for McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Earl at ecarter@mce.us.com.

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Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

General funds may subsidize fire pension

Opinion: 2016-092

Requestor: Uvalde Lindsey, State Senator

Does the Fayetteville City Council have authority to use money from “general funds” to subsidize the Fayetteville Firemen’s Pension and Relief Fund? Q2) Does the Fayetteville City Council have authority to increase the millage rate from its current level of .4 mill to a rate of “not more than one mill,” without submitting the question, again, to Fayetteville voters? Q2a) If not, does the vote have to be conducted in a general election as opposed to a special election? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, a city council may use money from the city’s general funds to subsidize a local firemen’s relief and pension fund. It is further my opinion that the council of a city whose voters approved an Amendment 31 tax by way of a ballot that stated that the vote was on a tax of “not more than one mill,” and which is levying the tax at a rate of less than one mill, may increase the prevailing tax rate without a new election. The amount by which the millage may be increased may depend on prevailing facts and their application to one or more other constitutional amendments or laws. Accordingly, I cannot render an opinion with respect to the amount by which Fayetteville, or any other particular city, may increase an Amendment 31 millage rate without an election.

Dual service ok with caveats

Opinion: 2016-106

Requestor: Scott Flippo, State Senator

Can a district court clerk also serve on the city council? **RESPONSE:** While there is no bright-line “yes” or “no” answer to your question, in my opinion it is more likely than not that a reviewing court would find no prohibition against this dual service. But in all events, the clerk clearly would be required to recuse from fixing his own salary.

MPOID law stands on its own

Opinion: 2016-113

Requestor: Julie Mayberry, State Representative
Do any subchapters of the “Municipal Improvement Districts Generally” law, codified at Ark. Code Ann. 14-88-101 et seq., apply to the Municipal Property Owners’ Improvement District law (MPOID), codified at Ark. Code Ann. 14-94-101, et seq.? The subchapters of particular interest are sections 14-88-304, 14-88-305, and 14-88-401. Q2) If a board member of an MPOID no longer owns property within the district or if a board member is in noncompliance with state law or local ordinance, are there any provisions under the Arkansas Code for property owners or the city council to act to remove that board member other than the procedure outlined in section 14-94-108? Q3) Does the Arkansas Code give any requirements for the format or procedures used to collect the signatures required for the petition to remove a member of the board as outlined in 14-94-108? Q3a) Is any information about a property owner (i.e., parcel #, address, date of birth) required on the petition other than their name, date, and signature? Q3b) Are there any restrictions for the time period allowed to collect signatures? Q3c) Are there any restrictions for who can collect signatures? Q3d) Can a petition be circulated in a digital format to be printed and signed by property owners? Q3e) If a parcel of land has two owners, is a signature required from both owners or is a signature from only one owner sufficient? Q4) How is the assessed value of real property located in the district determined for the 2/3 majority requirement of section 14-94-108(a)? Q4a) Is it the assessed value of real property before improvement or after improvement as outlined within section 14-94-115? Q4b) District 54 only collects assessments from part of the real property within the district. District 54 has never reassessed the real property in the district. Since the District 54 was formed, several larger parcels with no collected assessments have been subdivided. How is the assessed value of those subdivided parcels

determined since the district never assessed their value? **RESPONSE:** Q1) In my opinion, the Municipal Property Owner's Improvement District Law stands on its own, and districts formed thereunder are subject to that body of law and not Ark. Code Ann. 14-88-101 et seq. I believe the answer to this question is therefore "no." Q2) The removal procedure is governed by Ark. Code Ann. 14-94-108 and no other statute. The answer to this question is therefore also "no." Q3) The applicable statutes do not prescribe any formatting or procedural requirements for a removal petition. It is therefore my opinion that the answer to each of the first three subparts of this question is "no" and the answer to the fourth, subpart (d), is "yes." As for subpart (e) of this question, it is my opinion that the signature of both owners is required. Q4) In my opinion, the "assessed value" is determined by the value shown on the county assessment records at the time the governing body acts on the removal petit.

Council may not prohibit mayor's power to purchase

Opinion: 2016-114

Requestor: Larry R. Teague, State Senator

Does Ark. Code Ann. 14-58-303, or any other Arkansas Code sections, allow a city council to pass an ordinance limiting a mayor's ability to make purchases for public purposes in and for the city? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the answer to your question is "no." The mayor or his designee has the sole authority to make purchases for public purposes on behalf of the city. Thus a city could not adopt an ordinance that would prevent or restrict the mayor's exercise of this exclusive authority to make purchases. The mayor's authority is conditioned, of course, that the city council must first appropriate the funds, and that the expenditures must be for a public purpose. Additionally, the city council has the general power to revise an appropriation—which would limit the mayor's spending power with respect to that appropriation—so long as doing so does not divert tax revenues levied for specific purposes or prejudice the rights of creditors. Finally, although not a strict limitation on the mayor's authority to spend, a city council may provide by ordinance procedures for making purchases.

Tax may not be imposed without election

Opinion: 2016-116

Requestor: Kenneth B. Ferguson, State Representative

Does Arkansas law prohibit the city from financing all or part of the costs of its animal control, nuisance abatement and remediation, code enforcement, and lot clearance functions by a sanitation fee assessed to residents of the city? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the answer to this question turns on whether the increased sanitation fee would truly be a "fee," and not a tax. Generally, a tax may not be imposed without an election. Based on the limited information before me, I suspect the increased "fee" would be a constitutionally suspect tax imposed without an election. However, only a court presented with all the pertinent facts can determine whether the true character of a certain levy is a tax or a fee.

Official may serve with criminal charges pending

Opinion: 2016-131

Requestor: David L. Branscum, State Representative

Can an elected official serve in office with criminal charges pending? Q2) If an elected official is charged with a felony and removed from office, does the quorum court appoint an official, or does Newton County have a special election? Q3) Can someone be appointed for the same position twice? Q4) Can someone run for office after being appointed to a position? **RESPONSE:** Q1) Generally "yes." There is no generally applicable law stating that an elected official cannot continue in office pending a criminal prosecution. See Opinion for discussion of Ark. Const. art. 7, sec. 27 and Ark. Code Ann. 21-12-301. Q2) I take it this question refers to a county office-holder who is removed from office by judicial proceedings. A vacancy is declared in that case, to be filled by the quorum court. See Ark. Code Ann. secs. 14-14-1308 -1310. Q3& 4) "No." See Ark. Code Ann. 14-14-1310(a)(2)(E).

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

The fire pump: operations and troubleshooting

By Captain Bob Franklin, LRFD (ret)

Over the next couple of months we'll feature a series of articles dealing with our apparatus fire pumps. We will discuss established methods of engaging our pump along with streetwise knowledge that may not be in the manual. The pump operator/driver has the most important job in fire service. They must get the apparatus to the scene as quickly and safely as possible, know how to make the pump perform to its full capacity, and how to overcome unforeseen problems that arise.

When I began my fire service career in 1970, we trained at the Department of Fire Service Technology located at Southwest Technical School at East Camden, now SAU-Tech. Heading up the department was Chief Robert W. (Whit) Murphy, and the three instructors were Chief Ralph Scantlin, Chief Elmo Anderson, and Chief Gene Hendricks. These fellows were awesome instructors who had served a great many years in the fire service.

Whit Murphy instructed my first pump operator class. He began with "Whit's Rule of Threes." These were a series of three steps to place a fire pump into pumping mode from drive to begin pumping water. They were:

- A1. Complete stop.
- A2. Set parking brake.
- A3. Shift transmission to neutral.
- B1. Flip pump control switch or lever to pump mode.
- B2. Place transmission into proper gear.
- B3. Speedometer should indicate 10 to 15 mph. (On newer apparatus, green and/or red lights may indicate proper gear placement.)
- C1. Exit cab.
- C2. Place wheel chock in front of rear wheel.
- C3. Place wheel chock behind rear wheel.
- D1. Open tank-to-pump valve fully
- D2. Open tank fill/circulation valve fully, and
- D3. Close half way.
- E1. Throttle up desired RPMs to develop pressure needed.
- E2. Open desired valves to charge hose lines.
- E3. Recheck pressure with water flowing and make any adjustments to throttle as needed.



Very simple and to the point. If learned in these easy steps, you will never have a problem engaging the pump when pulling up to the fire.

It's also important to know how to place the pump into operation using the manual override. Even if the switch fails, place the actuator switch in pump mode. The problem may be at the pump case and not the switch. By placing the switch in pump mode, the electronics may engage the truck transmission into the proper pumping gear. If throttling up the RPM you notice the truck transmission shifting through the gears, it is an indication the pump actuator switch has developed a problem.

When you pull up at the location of the fire, place the pump into operation mode, open the tank valve, open the tank fill valve fully, then close halfway and turn the throttle to achieve desired pressures. What steps do you take if when you turn the throttle and nothing happens?

Know your RPM correlation to pump discharge pressures. In the event your pump throttle malfunctions, you may use the RPM to determine discharge pressures. You may use the accelerator in the cab. When designing your apparatus, take exception to having the accelerator option when placing the pump into operation mode. This is a method to allow you to pump until a second apparatus arrives on the scene. It is an emergency override feature.

Another method you can use if the master pressure gauge fails is to use a closed-off discharge as a makeshift master gauge. Simply open the discharge with the cap on and use it as the master discharge gauge to determine pressures.

Leave the tank-to-pump valve it open even when connected to a water source. The valve assembly has an internal clapper valve that will close automatically when the outside water source enters the pump. Should the outside water source fail, the clapper valve will open allowing you time to get your crew members out of the burning structure before you run out of water.

Next month we will discuss valves—manual, electric, and air. I hope these tips will help you, the driver/engineer better understand your apparatus, because a lot is riding on your knowledge! 🙏

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Bono is in the process of building a second city park that is centrally located on unused land within a floodplain.

Bono adds a new park and revamps another

By Alison Litchy

New picnic areas, new trails, new trees, and more public green space: What do they all have in common? They are part of a new park in the city of Bono. With a population of 2,131, Bono may be small, but they are making some big changes.

Mayor Dan Shaw was on a mission to improve the park situation that will benefit the entire city. He was elected with the goal of putting Bono on the map by turning it into the vibrant city that he knows it can be. Bono already has one city park, but it is on the outskirts of town and has issues with vandalism. Because the park is not conveniently located, it does not get very much use.

Right in the heart of the city there is a large underutilized section of land. A bulk of this land remains undeveloped due to being in the floodplain. Bono was able to get the 17-plus acres and enough money to build a road through the new park with a loan especially tailored for municipalities at a 2.75 percent rate for five years. The city was also able to purchase a derelict house and lot next to the new parkland. The house has been demolished and the lot will provide access on the College Street side of the park.



The city enclosed this pavilion at the existing city park for use by the local 4H chapter.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS LINDSEY, ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION.

The edge of the lot and the large open space was unfortunately the only section with trees on the property. These trees had been neglected and overgrown by invasive species. The city cleaned up the damaged trees and undergrowth with the goal of bringing new life into that section of the park.

The new park then got its name: Bono Legacy Park. This park will benefit current and future generations for years to come. The plan for the park includes a quarter-mile walking trail with a couple of picnic areas. Shade trees along this trail and at the picnic sites will be a great addition to the park upon completion of this project. Remember, this park is in a floodplain and species will have to be carefully selected to survive long term. Species such as bald cypress, black gum, river birch, willow oak, lacebark elm, and others will be ideal to providing the desired shade, while enjoying the wet habitat.

This is truly an all-hands-on-deck project. The city worked with a local farmer to borrow a tractor and other equipment in order to disk, harrow, and plane the property. Low spots were filled in with dirt salvaged from a ditch project. They have worked with the county judge to get some roads built with gravel from a local pit that the county hauled for them. They were able to get a fair price on their materials because they were purchased locally. The city was then able to get a \$194,500 grant from Arkansas Parks and Recreation to help create a great park. Bono is just starting the process of transforming this space into a wonderful asset for all its citizens.

Meanwhile, what needs to be done with the old city park? Bono wanted to also try and breathe life back into it. The city started to look for solutions to the previously mentioned vandalism and usage issues, and they found a good one. The local 4H club was in need of a location to house some of their small animals and other projects. The city decided to enclose one of the pavilions to make a barn and a compound for that purpose. With help from a \$15,000 grant from Rural Services, this project is underway and should be completed very soon. The city believes the increased activity at the park will curb some of the vandalism, plus the 4H Club will be a great partner for Bono. The city plans to use their help to plant trees in the new park and also to start a Tree Board for future involvement by the Club in the Tree City USA program.

“We feel that all of this will create more excitement and volunteerism, plus it will get some of the small animals out of the neighborhoods and give the kids a place to work with them,” Mayor Shaw said.

The city is also looking at the possibility of creating a dog park in the old park. It will still have two nice pavilions, a playground, a basketball court, a baseball field, and a quarter-mile track.

“We are investing, not only in property, but in the kids of our community, and by keeping them busy, we are helping them stay out of trouble,” Shaw said. “We are finding that the FFA, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts are wanting to get in on the fun as well. We think this will turn out to be a very far-reaching project in terms of lives touched.”



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



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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.

Form A

City or Town of _____
 (Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)
 Financial Statement January 1, 2016—Dec. 31, 2016

GENERAL FUND

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	\$ _____

STREET FUND

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.

INDEBTEDNESS

Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Property Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	
Sales & Use Tax Bonds	\$ _____	
Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
Total	\$ _____	_____

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. 

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

Form B		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2016—Dec. 31, 2016		
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2016	\$ _____	
INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
		Date Free of Debt

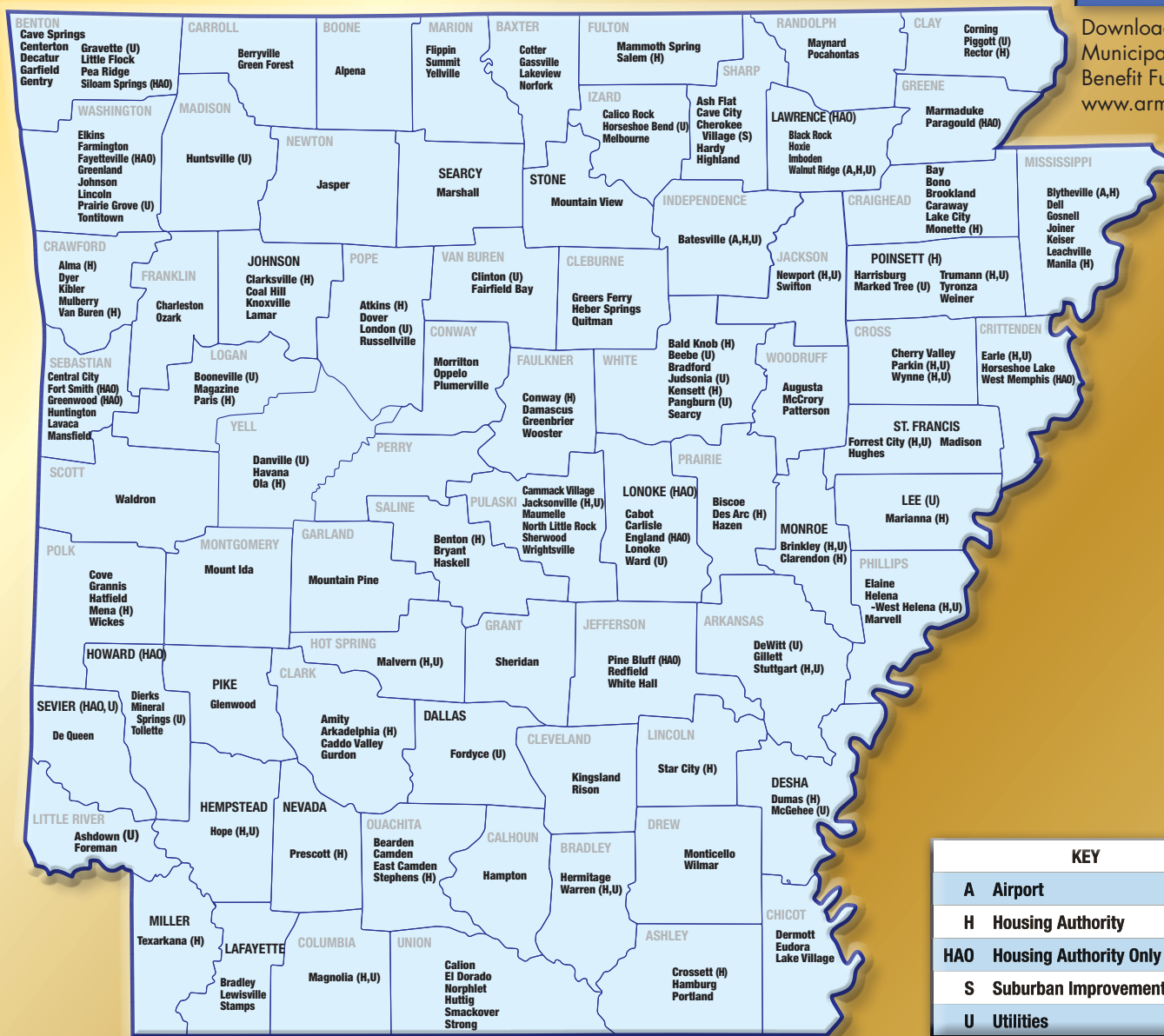
Total	\$ _____	
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active 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.		

Check out the Municipal Health Benefit Fund. MHBF provides coverage to 406 entities. And that number is growing!

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



Download the Municipal Health Benefit Fund booklet at: www.arml.org/mhbf



Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHBF

Barton-Lexa Water Association	Phillips County	Local Police & Fire Retirement System	Little Rock	Piggott Community Hospital	Piggott
Boston Mountain Solid Waste	Prairie Grove	Magnolia Regional Medical Center	Magnolia	Regional Recycling & Waste Reduction District	Pulaski County
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	Lonoke	Mena Regional Health System	Mena	SE AR Economic Development District	Pine Bluff
Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force	De Queen	Montgomery County Nursing Home	Mount Ida	Sevier County Water Association	De Queen
Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney	Russellville	NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District	Paragould	Third Judicial District Drug Task Force	Jackson County
Fifth Judicial District	Russellville	North Little Rock - Library	North Little Rock	Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force	Camden
Gillham Lake Regional Water Association	Gillham	North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water	North Little Rock	Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District	Nashville
Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water	Lonoke and Prairie Counties	Northeast Public Water	Mountain Home	Waldron Housing Authority	Waldron
Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District	Carroll County	Northwest AR Conservation Authority	Rogers	Western AR Planning & Development District	Fort Smith
Ladd Water Users Association	Pine Bluff	Northwest AR Economic Development District	Harrison	White River Regional Housing	Melbourne
Lakeview Midway Public Water	Lakeview	Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water	Diamond City	Yorktown Water Association	Star City
Lee County Water Association	Marianna				

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

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. _____

The Arkansas Department of Heritage helps cities preserve past

By Chad Gallagher

I have long been a lover of historic preservation. Both our family home and our office building were built in 1925. I am always amazed by the craftsmanship and the style of historic homes and buildings. Historic properties in our cities are important. They are the possessors of the community's history. They possess the essence and fragrance of our state's culture and act as master professors teaching us the lessons of history, life, and culture.

While all historic properties are important, there certainly are properties that have immediate, widely recognized public benefit and community significance. These are unique properties, and some are the last of their kind. These buildings especially must be preserved.

Arkansas is fortunate to have the Arkansas Department of Heritage and they regularly partner with cities, counties, and local nonprofits in order to secure Arkansas's historic treasures. Through the department's programs, entire historic commercial districts have been created in historic downtowns and grant funds received as part of the process. Just recently this happened in Morrilton, which received funds through a Certified Local Government Grant. Recently, The Commander's House at Williams Baptist College, a building dating to the site's days as a World War II airfield, was restored using grant funds from the department's AHPP Historic Preservation Restoration Grant. Historic minority churches, community schoolhouses, city halls, heritage farm properties, and more are among beneficiaries of the agency's partnerships.

Below are a few of the agency's grant programs. Learn more about the programs and how to apply at the AHPP website, www.arkansaspreservation.com.

Certified Local Government Grants

City and county governments in Arkansas that participate in the AHPP's Certified Local Government (CLG) program are eligible for pass-through grants from the federal Historic Preservation Fund. AHPP must subgrant at least 10 percent of its annual federal appropriation to CLGs each year. (CLG grants can also be used to assist local governments seeking to join the program.)

CLG pass-through grants can be used for a variety of local historic preservation projects, including architectural surveys of historic sites or districts, preparation

of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, development of educational materials for historic property owners, and rehabilitation of local historic structures. CLG grants are often used to provide training and support to local historic district commissions.

County Courthouse Restoration Grant

The AHPP's County Courthouse Restoration Subgrants have been used to help restore historic county courthouses in 61 of the state's 75 counties since they were created in 1989, helping to extend the lives of structures that hold vital links to community pride and local history. Total amounts available to be shared among applicants annually have ranged from \$150,000 to \$1 million.

Historic Preservation Restoration

Three historic preservation restoration grant options are available:

Option 1—Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to the owners of properties that are 1) listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places and/or 2) identified as a non-contributing structure in a National Register District; if the grant project will make the property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the owner follows through with the National Register listing process.

Option 2—Grants at a minimum of \$10,000 are available to the owners of properties that meet all of the following criteria: (a) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and (b) owned by a not-for-profit organization or a municipality. No Option 2 grants will be made to individuals. Preference will be given to projects that are not eligible for other AHPP grant programs.

Option 3—Grants of \$5,000 to \$9,999 are available to fund restoration projects for cemeteries listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Option 3 grants are available to non-profit organizations 501(c)(3) and units of local government.

The agency also oversees a host of Arkansas art grants, which we will cover further in another column.

The Arkansas Department of Heritage is one of the greatest unsung heroes of state government. They play a vital role in preserving the past and safeguarding the

future. It takes real visionaries, who see into the future, to preserve the past. They understand the significant role our historic properties will play for future generations. Once we've lost a depot, a public hall or some other significant building in a community, we can never get it back. A thousand black-and-white pictures cannot fix such a loss. I urge community leaders to connect with the Department of Heritage. Our cities and towns are worth it, and the generations to come after us deserve their own connection to those who came before us.



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.

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What they get: Weekly temporary total disability benefits payable up to a MAXIMUM of \$661 for 2017 allowed under Arkansas Workers' Compensation Law; weekly benefits go for 52 weeks; \$10,000 death benefit.

How? Cost is only \$20 a firefighter a year. All volunteer, part-paid, and paid firefighters in the department must be covered. The minimum premium for each city or town is \$240.

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Glenda Robinson can be reached at ext. 243

or Rebecca Williamson at ext. 221

The fax number is 501-537-7253

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Arkansas Municipal League's Firefighters Supplemental Income and Death Benefit Program

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 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.

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

CALENDAR

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


**Planning & Zoning
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April 19, 2017
League headquarters
North Little Rock, Arkansas

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



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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE



Welcome

Within the Arkansas Municipal League website, you will find resources that will assist you in providing leadership to your city. The dedicated staff of the League continues to work for cities and towns across our great state. "Great Cities Make A Great State" is more than just a motto; it is the spirit of this organization.

News Feed

- Gasoline Spending in America Hasn't Been This Low in 11 Years - Business Insider
- Denton named AEDC President - Athens Daily Review
- Duggars not shaken by petition to cancel their show - theday.com
- Year in Review: Top ASU sports stories of 2014 - abccentral.com
- Stuttgart City Council hears from equipment dealer; talks airport funding - Stuttgart Daily Leader

More News

Calendar

MLWCT Board of Trustees
Thursday, October 30, 2014
League Headquarters
11:00 AM

Roundabout Training, Federal Highway Administration
Tuesday, October 21, 2014 - Wednesday October 22, 2014
Little Rock, AR

National League of Cities 2014 Congress of Cities and Exposition
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 - Saturday November 22, 2014
Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

Full Calendar

Meeting Registrations

2015 Winter Conference
January 14-16, 2015
Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

Register Online or Download PDF Registration Form
2015 Winter Conference Tentative Agenda

2014 Human Resource Seminar
October 15, 2014, League Headquarters

Register Online or Download PDF Registration Form

All Registrations

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Great Cities Make a Great State!

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at 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.

CHIEF OF POLICE—The City of Van Buren is currently seeking a Police Chief to direct its Police Department and continue to advance its strong commitment to community engagement and community policing. The Police Department has a budgeted staff of 45 sworn officers and 13 non-sworn employees. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, budget management (current budget \$4.3 million), formulating and enforcing departmental policies, rules, regulations and procedures. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and supervisory skills, excellent oral and written communication skills, and will enjoy being part of a local government team striving to serve the citizens of the community. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration or related field, as well as extensive, progressively responsible administrative and supervisory experience in law enforcement. An equivalent combination of education and experience may substitute for the specific requirements listed here. For a complete job description and application, access www.vanburencity.org. Completed applications with cover letter and resume to be mailed to Bob Freeman, Mayor, City of Van Buren, 1003 Broadway, Van Buren, AR 72956 or emailed to jfroud@vanburencity.org.

CITY ATTORNEY—The City of Republic, Mo., seeks a City Attorney. This position answers inquiries from the City Administrator and Department Heads on legal issues pertaining to City operations. Performs legal research and prepare opinions on various legal problems for City Board of Directors, Boards and Commissions, and City Departments. Studies, interprets and applies laws, court decisions, ordinances, and other legal sources in advising officers and employees of the City in legal matters. Prepares and drafts ordinances, resolutions, administrative policies, letters, contracts, deeds, leases, and other legal documents and instruments; review such documents and offer opinions as to legal acceptability when presented to the City for consideration. Represents the City and its officers and employees in litigation including motions, trial of cases and appeals in civil actions brought by or against the City in state and federal court. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay Range: \$85,000-\$95,000 DOQ. Open until filled. Application and complete job description available at www.republicmo.com. Application must be completed and submitted to HR, City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738 by the specified deadline. EOE.

CITY ENGINEER—The City of Cabot is accepting applications for a newly created position of City Engineer. This position will be salaried exempt and will be appointed by and report directly to the Mayor. This person will be responsible for the entire Planning and Development Department which consists of engineering, code enforcement, permitting and planning, MS4 compliance, floodplain management, and other areas. Degree in the engineering field or equivalent technical degree required; BSCE desired. A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in managing a professional engineering function. Pay range is \$70,000 to \$80,000 depending on experience, with full benefits including APERS. Application and complete job description at www.cabotar.gov. Please go to website to officially apply. This position will be open until filled. EOE.

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. 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@ikm.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.

CITY PLANNER—The City of Sherwood is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Planner. The essential duties of this position include the following: plans, organizes, directs and integrates current and long-range municipal planning programs and services; supervises and manages all building inspection staff as well as permits office staff; conducts comprehensive planning projects affecting land use, regulations, and transportation issues; meets with public, developers, and other planning agencies to discuss regulations; attends Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings and other forums as assigned; and partners with the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce and other city department to facilitate city growth. Successful candidate must possess a Baccalaureate Degree in planning, design or a similar related field of study and have five years direct experience in municipal, urban, or regional planning. Applicant must also possess AICP certification and maintain such throughout employment. Certification as a Floodplain Manager is essential and must be obtained within six months of initial employment date. Salary is negotiable and DOE. The City of Sherwood provides full time employees with a generous benefit program. All new employees are required to contribute 3% of gross salary to the 457(b) Retirement Plan. For more information and a full job description, visit www.cityofsherwood.net or contact the Human Resources office at (501) 833-3703.

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. 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.

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN—The City of Nixa, Mo., has an opening for Electrical Lineman. 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. 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 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.

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION—Notice is hereby given that the City of Van Buren Civil Service Commission has scheduled a written examination for entry level positions in the Van Buren Fire Department on Monday, April 10, 2017, at the Crawford County Adult Education Center, located at 605 Alma Boulevard Circle. The examination will begin at 6 p.m. Late arrivals will not be allowed to take examination. Applicants must provide a valid

ID at time of testing. Persons who have arrived at age 21 and have not yet reached 35 years of age desiring to take the examination are hereby notified that applications may be obtained from the Van Buren Fire Department, 2009 Pevehouse Road, (479) 471-5038. The applications must be received at the Van Buren Fire Department 2009 Pevehouse Road no later than 5 p.m., Friday March 31, 2017. Applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by copies of all required documents which include birth certificate, Social Security Card, HS diploma (GED), valid DL, DD-214 if ex-military and current evaluation if Active Reserve. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The top 15 scores on the written examination will be scheduled to take a physical agility examination on Saturday April 22, 2017. All qualified candidates successfully passing each portion of the examinations will be placed on a list of certified applicants. All applicants that interview for positions within the Van Buren Fire Department will be required to submit and pay for a NCIC background check. EOE. Women, minorities and military veterans are encouraged to apply.

PATROL OFFICER—The Lewisville Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Officer. Application packets may be picked up at City Hall at 330 West 1st Street in Lewisville. Contact Misty at (870) 921-4971. Starting Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Preference may be given to certified officers.

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.



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MHBF Tips: Proper use of medication

We live in a time where there is a pill for everything. Knowing when and when not to take medication—whether over-the-counter or prescribed—is essential. Here are a few ideas to help keep you and your family safe.

It is important to keep a detailed record of the medications that you take. Include the following information in your record:

- Name of medication including dosage, and prescribing physician.
- Date medication prescribed.
- Reason for prescription.

Check with your physician or the drug label or insert to find out other important information that can also be included in your prescription record such as:

- How will this prescription react with other drugs I am taking?
- How long will I need to take this medication?
- What time of day should I schedule my dose?
- What are the potential side effects?
- Should I take prescription on an empty stomach?
- Should I avoid alcohol or other food and drinks?
- Will this drug increase sensitivity to sunlight?
- How should this drug be stored?
- How will I know if the drug is working?

Make certain to keep your doctor(s) and pharmacist(s) informed of all medications that you take. Drug interactions may make your drug less effective, cause unexpected side effects, or increase the action a particular drug. Some of these interactions may be harmful to you. Taking the time to learn about drug interactions may be critical to your health. Drug interactions fall into three broad categories:

- 1. Drug-drug interactions** occur when two or more drugs react with each other and cause you to experience an unexpected side effect. For example, mixing a drug you take for sleep with an over the counter antihistamine can slow your reactions and make driving a car extremely dangerous.
- 2. Drug-food/beverage interactions** result from drugs reacting with foods or beverages. For example, taking some drugs and antibiotics with milk may present a problem because the calcium found in milk will bind with drugs or antibiotics and prevent absorption into the body.

- 3. Drug-condition interactions** may occur when an existing medical condition makes certain drugs potentially harmful. For example, if you have high blood pressure, you could experience an unwanted reaction if you take a nasal decongestant.

When seeing a new physician or filling a prescription at a new pharmacy, make sure you provide the physician or pharmacist with a detailed list of medications that you are taking, including over-the-counter medications and supplements. This information could save you or a family member from a potentially hazardous side effect.

Learn to read the labels of over-the-counter medications. Each label contains information about ingredients, uses, warnings, and directions that is important to read and understand. The label also includes information about possible drug interactions. Drug labels may change as new information becomes available so read the label each time you purchase an over-the-counter medication.

- The “Active Ingredients” section of a label provides the name and amount of each active ingredient and its purpose.
- The “Uses” section indicates what the drug is used for and helps you find the best drug for your specific symptoms.
- The “Warnings” section on the label provides important drug interactions and precautions, such as when to talk with a doctor or pharmacist before use, the medical conditions that may make the drug less effective or unsafe, under what circumstances the drug should not be used, and when to stop taking the drug.
- “Directions” on the label tell you the length of time and the amount of the product that you may safely use, as well as any special instructions on how to use the product.
- Many drug labels contain “Other Information” that tells you required information about certain ingredients such as sodium content for people with dietary restrictions or allergies.
- The “Questions” section of the label provides telephone numbers of a source to answer questions about the product.

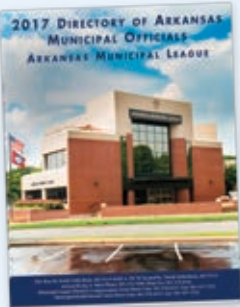
Here are other important things to remember to ensure the proper use of medication:

- Do not share your prescription drugs with another person or borrow someone else’s medication.

While it may seem harmless, it could be dangerous to your health.

- Do not change your dosage or stop using a prescription medication without first consulting your physician.
- If possible, have all your prescribed medications filled at one pharmacy or chain so that one source will have a record of all your medications. This will help minimize potential adverse interactions.
- Understand that drugs affect people differently based on size, age, and other factors.
- Make sure all bottles are closed and stored properly.
- Never leave any drug within the reach of small children or pets.
- Discard any over-the-counter or prescription medications that have passed their expiration date or are no longer needed to prevent accidental exposure or intentional misuse. Many city and county government agencies have drug take-back programs and public receptacles where medications may be safely dropped off for disposal.

Prescription and non-prescription medications continue to improve the quality of our lives by controlling, preventing, and curing illness and chronic conditions when taken properly. Personal health and safety is ultimately our own responsibility. Being a wise healthcare consumer when it comes to taking prescription and over-the-counter medication is one key to your good health and well being.



2017 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials Price: \$25 each.

Orders must be pre-paid. To get your copy of this valuable resource, You may order and pay for your copy online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org/store, or fill out the form below, and send it to the Arkansas Municipal League at the address below.

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My check of \$ _____ is enclosed, payable to: The Arkansas Municipal League.

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Title _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to: Arkansas Municipal League

2017 Directory

P.O. Box 38

North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

2017 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	\$5.5378	\$0.1524	\$0.1894	\$1.0775	\$1.0884
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	
Total Year	\$62.9483	\$10.8655	\$2.0238	\$0.4935	\$15.9639	\$3.2357

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	\$10,462,690.50	\$287,481.18	\$357,751.63	\$2,031,997.39	\$2,056,417.62
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	
Total Year	\$118,752,623.16	\$20,528,215.50	\$3,818,458.38	\$932,327.61	\$30,114,362.91	\$6,113,237.54

* 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

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	\$60,007,416	\$59,477,239	\$52,583,090	\$51,693,904	\$112,590,506	\$111,171,143	\$17,386
March		\$45,484,389		\$41,503,958		\$86,988,347	\$17,357
April		\$51,278,433		\$46,543,122		\$97,821,554	\$19,032
May		\$51,716,750		\$46,509,945		\$98,226,695	\$16,799
June		\$48,045,270		\$42,836,823		\$90,882,093	\$17,947
July		\$52,527,961		\$47,321,806		\$99,849,766	\$17,750
August		\$52,254,925		\$47,594,177		\$99,849,102	\$17,169
September		\$53,746,167		\$49,430,573		\$103,176,740	\$18,913
October		\$52,105,594		\$47,384,899		\$99,490,493	\$17,666
November		\$53,632,182		\$48,831,434		\$102,463,617	\$17,523
December		\$51,969,068		\$46,917,820		\$98,886,888	\$17,198
Total	\$111,757,091	\$621,274,986	\$98,722,223	\$560,288,690	\$210,479,313	\$1,181,563,676	\$33,290
Averages	\$55,878,545	\$51,772,916	\$49,361,111	\$46,690,724	\$105,239,657	\$98,463,640	\$17,802

February 2017 Municipal Levy Receipts and February 2017 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garfield	11,540.69	7,406.27	Murfreesboro	26,084.99	29,146.21	Montrose	3,347.78	3,758.52
Alexander	77,229.62	84,557.25	Garland	1,694.66	3,125.98	Nashville	111,294.47	121,103.94	Parkdale	2,619.59	2,940.99
Alma	238,167.14	202,885.57	Gassville	18,488.74	16,562.63	Newport	196,398.59	209,375.50	Portland	4,066.52	4,565.43
Almyra	2,168.75	2,816.66	Gentry	50,065.59	49,776.34	Norfolk	3,828.27	4,659.44	Wilnot	5,201.36	5,839.50
Alpena	6,470.87	6,032.18	Gilbert	1,099.86	133.13	Norman	2,218.99	2,891.41	Baxter County	366,673.42	343,636.29
Alzheimer	2,587.57	1,850.64	Gillett	9,449.04	1,696.21	North Little Rock	1,749,568.01	1,877,267.69	Big Flat	1,590.42	1,490.64
Altus	8,582.33	6,743.06	Gillham	2,754.62	3,432.13	Oak Grove	772.84	602.81	Briarcliff	3,609.03	3,382.61
Amity	11,534.17	11,517.19	Gilmore	398.97	309.51	Oak Grove Heights	6,063.56	NA	Cotter	14,833.73	13,903.12
Anthonyville	167.03	346.18	Glenwood	63,798.94	63,933.09	Ola	16,494.32	17,440.73	Gasser	31,777.82	29,784.20
Arkadelphia	174,641.40	172,312.58	Gosnell	15,314.51	15,751.02	Opello	4,827.24	3,180.33	Lakeview	11,331.74	10,620.83
Ash Flat	104,482.08	105,292.79	Gould	12,137.26	5,083.81	Osceola	105,451.16	108,991.64	Mountain Home	190,361.07	178,418.54
Ashdown	138,082.49	135,551.88	Grady	2,366.49	2,873.59	Oxford	1,922.03	1,583.93	Norfolk	7,814.47	7,324.22
Atkins	60,535.64	61,641.16	Gravette	100,017.20	99,629.43	Ozark	166,530.08	63,826.68	Salesville	6,881.63	6,449.91
Augusta	22,771.48	32,590.79	Green Forest	83,050.46	62,782.65	Palestine	17,433.67	17,099.76	Benton County	829,800.88	737,541.67
Austin	31,573.03	28,991.21	Greenbrier	164,956.71	172,029.26	Pangburn	7,930.47	7,615.57	Avoca	9,531.88	8,472.10
Avoca	7,293.65	5,105.09	Greenland	10,221.42	20,548.43	Paragould	314,020.08	329,402.54	Bella Vista	518,120.14	460,514.33
Bald Knob	17,102.42	40,708.06	Greenwood	220,919.87	220,917.72	Paris	79,508.99	77,851.73	Bentonville	689,518.18	612,855.93
Barling	57,917.44	59,030.38	Greers Ferry	14,558.32	16,251.49	Patmos	134.89	98.97	Bethel Heights	46,331.18	41,179.97
Batesville	733,998.71	709,785.03	Guion	5,812.93	9,655.84	Patterson	1,255.80	829.30	Cave Springs	37,717.33	33,523.83
Bauxite	12,252.98	13,635.79	Gum Springs	295.28	354.19	Pea Ridge	50,367.35	46,646.60	Centerton	185,852.11	165,188.64
Bay	9,348.46	7,856.66	Gurdon	21,344.18	26,581.66	Perla	3,118.09	3,011.96	Decatur	33,185.78	29,496.11
Bearden	11,878.47	12,642.76	Guy	4,940.98	4,452.11	Perryville	18,467.22	21,496.16	Elm Springs	2,675.96	2,378.44
Beebe	130,217.93	129,462.14	Hackett	5,554.08	5,560.28	Piggott	65,180.42	70,847.96	Garfield	9,805.33	8,715.15
Beedeville	1,038.84	75.63	Hamburg	28,305.83	30,697.32	Pine Bluff	1,013,789.13	1,063,881.76	Gateway	7,910.68	7,031.15
Bella Vista	160,110.09	148,979.62	Hardy	19,485.02	17,979.17	Pineville	1,779.27	1,756.73	Gentry	66,898.95	59,460.97
Belleville	1,666.79	2,089.34	Harrisburg	58,575.51	29,129.35	Plainview	3,311.47	3,474.94	Gravette	60,804.80	54,044.38
Benton	1,662,679.36	1,593,153.82	Harrison	511,888.05	505,354.82	Plumerville	10,306.19	11,583.37	Highfill	10,121.38	10,121.38
Bentonville	2,192,622.41	2,468,432.22	Hartford	5,115.34	2,682.41	Pocahontas	268,829.40	311,389.03	Little Flock	50,491.61	44,877.84
Berryville	257,717.61	243,038.34	Haskell	21,345.00	23,188.78	Portia	2,455.82	2,455.15	Lowell	143,114.92	127,203.06
Bethel Heights	92,912.34	56,119.18	Hatfield	3,947.42	4,103.14	Portland	3,898.00	3,435.59	Pea Ridge	93,638.99	83,227.90
Big Flat	224.15	NA	Havana	2,882.91	3,201.52	Pottsville	22,069.25	24,282.05	Rogers	1,093,119.04	971,583.50
Black Rock	8,239.58	13,548.43	Hazen	203,018.89	52,072.50	Prairie Grove	88,851.23	89,613.21	Siloam Springs	293,749.86	261,090.06
Blevins	1,810.84	2,158.17	Heber Springs	151,344.10	153,671.17	Prescott	56,960.22	55,981.62	Springdale	127,977.20	113,748.39
Blue Mountain	214.52	737.43	Helena-West Helena	258,018.76	251,234.79	Pyatt	544.87	599.46	Springtown	1,699.33	1,510.40
Blytheville	254,187.80	262,399.05	Hermitage	6,512.15	7,185.39	Quitman	21,534.60	23,690.97	Sulphur Springs	9,981.15	8,871.41
Bonanza	2,199.50	2,178.21	Higginson	1,307.61	1,208.69	Ravenden	3,030.85	3,030.37	Boone County	415,433.80	412,068.73
Bono	16,812.96	13,519.08	Highfill	35,052.01	51,484.93	Rector	27,544.71	29,377.82	Alpena	4,383.73	4,348.22
Booneville	119,678.03	115,681.25	Highland	24,465.91	27,372.44	Redfield	25,502.06	20,008.31	Bellefonte	6,238.91	6,188.37
Bradford	13,837.51	14,005.24	Holly Grove	8,607.35	5,612.44	Rison	13,325.95	16,547.22	Bergman	6,032.78	5,983.91
Bradley	2,351.07	4,304.73	Hope	191,739.06	193,966.38	Rockport	61,838.50	33,618.01	Diamond City	10,746.32	10,659.27
Branch	1,654.53	1,369.18	Horatio	6,038.19	6,104.73	Roe	844.79	724.27	Everton	1,827.70	1,812.89
Briarcliff	2,604.29	1,469.33	Horseshoe Bend	25,510.96	21,851.27	Rogers	3,865,455.58	3,342,464.06	Harrison	177,863.92	176,423.21
Brinkley	103,215.70	163,795.90	Hot Springs	1,867,658.35	1,912,578.95	Rose Bud	25,888.37	25,358.51	Lead Hill	3,724.11	3,693.94
Brookland	54,799.13	17,458.29	Hoxie	12,815.77	14,805.66	Rudy	9,824.14	NA	Omaha	2,322.41	2,303.60
Bryant	1,291,006.64	1,202,593.90	Hughes	6,009.58	8,038.85	Russellville	1,113,183.36	1,162,540.23	South Lead Hill	1,401.69	1,390.34
Bull Shoals	12,217.86	11,750.49	Humphrey	1,469.86	2,342.67	Salem	22,972.34	22,563.61	Valley Springs	2,514.80	2,494.43
Cabot	828,150.95	791,865.87	Huntington	2,800.09	9,100.23	Salesville	3,442.05	3,780.16	Zinc	1,415.43	1,403.98
Caddo Valley	46,879.63	51,227.60	Huntsville	129,171.26	136,518.17	Searcy	942,930.44	887,477.26	Bradley County	133,256.17	129,440.06
Calico Rock	26,672.39	26,607.46	Imboden	8,218.91	7,889.89	Shannon Hills	10,665.66	11,335.73	Banks	1,028.94	999.47
Camden	331,851.46	338,004.41	Jacksonville	664,773.53	725,776.67	Sheridan	210,102.81	198,529.50	Hermitage	6,887.27	6,690.03
Caraway	4,360.72	4,478.63	Jasper	26,284.57	27,931.26	Sherill	394.56	717.38	Warren	49,812.36	48,385.88
Carlsruhe	45,548.33	46,438.80	Jennette	180.49	115.97	Sherwood	486,142.52	414,528.53	Calhoun County	90,379.64	111,218.26
Cash	1,955.47	NA	Johnson	49,755.61	54,136.30	Shirley	3,214.52	3,967.80	Hampton	25,612.21	31,524.94
Cave City	18,182.54	18,196.74	Joiner	3,075.85	2,322.56	Siloam Springs	689,561.36	639,816.99	Harrell	4,914.68	6,047.84
Cave Springs	31,007.95	23,021.21	Jonesboro	1,782,768.46	1,807,225.38	Sparkman	3,611.36	4,275.89	Thornton	7,875.08	9,690.82
Centerton	196,826.25	138,739.53	Junction City	5,826.69	6,198.78	Springdale	2,348,471.75	2,263,341.96	Tinsman	1,044.85	1,285.76
Charleston	27,933.03	30,541.40	Keiser	4,036.48	3,809.49	Springtown	204.66	279.63	Carroll County	150,885.06	146,897.78
Cherokee Village	17,420.96	14,588.11	Keo	1,004.76	1,184.74	St. Charles	2,307.19	2,635.20	Beaver	552.37	537.77
Cherry Valley	4,450.22	4,606.45	Kibler	2,787.71	2,845.61	Stamps	10,746.90	12,653.50	Blue Eye	165.71	161.33
Chidester	2,909.23	2,660.24	Kingsland	1,880.19	2,310.33	Star City	78,545.53	74,676.72	Chicot County	120,903.41	229,341.55
Clarendon	43,066.96	43,411.61	Lake City	11,501.50	13,491.33	Stephens	6,574.96	6,125.89	Dermott	22,013.61	23,947.94
Clarksville	404,323.29	407,812.87	Lake Village	81,026.03	82,484.84	Strong	9,525.20	12,397.09	Eudora	17,289.33	18,808.54
Clinton	92,675.20	90,021.60	Lakeview	4,675.99	3,362.93	Stuttgart	739,736.37	729,995.55	Lake Village	19,620.99	21,345.10
Coal Hill	4,426.29	2,114.08	Lamar	11,321.55	11,157.44	Sulphur Springs	1,376.10	1,589.87	Clark County	359,821.16	417,472.56
Conway	2,339,414.38	2,318,336.61	Lead Hill	5,663.77	5,154.80	Summit	4,232.82	4,413.96	Clay County	88,790.56	89,614.06
Corning	81,026.85	81,077.38	Leopanto	27,980.74	26,232.81	Sunset	2,418.19	6,402.17	Corning	23,966.57	24,188.85
Cotter	11,197.70	9,898.28	Leslie	2,648.68	3,871.40	Swifton	3,266.08	3,533.80	Datto	1,064.55	1,074.42
Cotton Plant	1,157.46	1,580.37	Lewisville	10,419.62	9,388.62	Taylor	10,748.56	10,244.63	Greenway	2,224.91	2,245.54
Cove	9,330.68	14,135.78	Lincoln	38,881.69	39,433.30	Texarkana	394,987.03	415,510.93	Knobel	3,055.26	3,083.59
Crawfordsville	8,498.01	9,302.92	Little Flock	11,235.02	11,197.19	Texarkana Special	196,595.38	205,577.03	McDougal	1,980.06	1,998.42
Crossett	280,578.17	334,789.77	Little Rock	7,351,648.40	7,677,288.75	Thornton	990.86	2,424.84	Nimmons	734.54	741.35
Damascus	6,938.07	7,361.83	Lockesburg	4,743.09	5,529.09	Tontitown	129,754.18	107,974.35	Peach Orchard	1,437.14	1,450.47
Danville	34,473.77	59,161.52	Lonoke	164,836.26	162,140.37	Trumann	80,032.54	83,693.94	Piggott	27,316.35	27,569.70
Dardanelle	163,310.10	164,391.56	Lowell	304,764.76	292,398.03	Tuckerman	14,964.10	13,917.66	Pollard	2,363.30	2,385.22
Decatur	24,144.76	23,164.98	Luxora	2,459.81	2,309.42	Turrell	3,102.97	4,482.57	Rector	14,030.77	14,160.90
Delight	4,426.38	3,588.00	Madison	907.03	1,213.61	Tyronza	3,435.72	3,502.42	St. Francis	2,661.37	2,686.06
De Queen	123,986.29	126,381.27	Magazine	8,232.95	7,809.90	Van Buren	667,157.66	638,664.44	Success	1,586.19	1,600.90
Dermott	27,476.79	29,053.34	Magnolia	505,173.62	527,950.84	Vandervoort	314.76	369.71	Cleburne County	352,076.02	372,539.98
Des Arc											

Monette	31,121.41	30,453.65	Newark	17,425.24	16,384.63	Burdette	2,144.74	2,424.28	Searcy County	38,431.53	41,392.11
Crawford County	755,633.15	623,754.88	Oil Trough	3,852.52	3,622.45	Dell	2,504.07	2,830.45	Big Flat	6.27	6.76
Alma	54,991.49	45,394.00	Pleasant Plains	5,171.27	4,862.45	Dyess	4,603.89	5,203.96	Gilbert	1,775.66	189.19
Cedarville	14,146.18	11,677.29	Southside	57,802.61	31,445.68	Etowah	3,941.38	4,455.10	Leslie	2,766.62	2,979.75
Chester	1,613.52	1,331.91	Sulphur Rock	6,756.71	6,353.23	Gosnell	39,840.53	45,033.28	Marshall	8,500.61	9,155.45
Dyer	8,889.56	7,338.10	Izard County	48,130.43	48,166.47	Jones	6,467.91	7,310.93	Pindall	702.63	756.76
Kibler	9,752.13	8,050.13	Jackson County	272,055.63	286,638.66	Keiser	8,522.82	9,633.67	St. Joe	828.10	891.90
Mountainburg	6,403.33	5,825.77	Amagon	975.78	1,028.08	Leachville	22,379.42	25,296.32	Sebastian County	990,648.19	936,947.92
Mulberry	16,794.78	13,863.64	Beedeville	1,065.39	1,122.50	Luxora	13,227.78	14,951.86	Barling	90,540.50	85,632.55
Rudy	619.02	510.99	Campbell Station	2,539.02	2,675.12	Manila	37,527.36	42,418.61	Bonanza	11,198.28	10,591.25
Van Buren	231,280.86	190,916.13	Diaz	13,123.23	13,826.68	Marie	943.24	1,066.18	Central City	9,776.58	9,246.62
Crittenden County	1,400,375.62	825,453.03	Grubbs	3,843.37	4,049.39	Osceola	87,103.44	98,456.36	Fort Smith	1,678,942.91	1,587,932.12
Anthonyville	1,136.87	1,205.65	Jacksonport	2,110.87	2,224.02	Victoria	415.47	469.63	Greenwood	174,342.55	164,891.93
Clarkedale	2,619.74	2,778.24	Newport	78,450.63	82,655.83	Wilson	10,139.81	11,461.37	Hackett	15,813.91	14,956.69
Crawfordsville	3,382.36	3,587.00	Swifton	7,945.63	8,371.54	Monroe County	NA	NA	Hartford	12,503.12	11,825.36
Earle	17,045.97	18,077.29	Tuckerman	18,539.80	19,533.59	Montgomery County	37,340.07	39,532.51	Huntington	12,366.79	11,696.42
Edmondson	3,015.17	3,197.60	Tupelo	1,792.25	1,888.32	Black Springs	482.59	510.93	Lavaca	44,578.88	42,162.38
Gilmore	1,671.41	1,772.53	Weldon	746.77	786.79	Glenwood	204.74	216.76	Mansfield	14,080.61	13,317.34
Horseshoe Lake	2,061.90	2,186.65	Jefferson County	759,085.66	777,664.97	Mount Ida	5,245.16	5,553.13	Midland	6,329.46	5,986.36
Jennette	730.85	775.06	Altheimer	11,936.99	11,204.68	Norman	1,842.63	1,950.82	Sevier County	304,200.87	302,853.59
Jericho	840.29	891.13	Humphrey	3,423.37	3,507.16	Oden	1,130.92	1,197.33	Ben Lomond	1,385.74	1,379.60
Marion	87,171.69	92,445.81	Pine Bluff	545,549.00	558,901.82	Nevada County	107,699.14	108,394.45	De Queen	63,017.70	62,738.60
Sunset	1,258.33	1,334.46	Redfield	14,415.93	14,768.77	Bluff City	991.51	997.91	Gilham	1,529.09	1,522.32
Turrell	3,908.43	4,144.90	Sherrill	933.65	956.50	Bodcaw	1,103.46	1,110.58	Horatio	9,977.32	9,933.14
West Memphis	185,323.70	196,536.27	Wabbaseka	2,834.28	2,903.65	Cale	631.69	635.77	Lockesburg	7,062.49	7,031.21
Cross County	243,598.84	258,619.16	White Hall	61,420.52	62,923.85	Emmet	3,798.14	3,822.66	Sharp County	84,170.39	80,268.78
Cherry Valley	6,256.97	6,642.77	Johnson County	130,976.23	126,307.08	Prescott	26,355.06	26,525.22	Ash Flat	10,067.98	9,601.29
Hickory Ridge	2,614.28	2,775.47	Clarksville	96,206.47	92,776.82	Rosston	2,086.98	2,100.45	Cave City	17,896.35	17,066.79
Parkin	10,620.51	11,275.37	Coal Hill	10,608.08	10,229.91	Willisville	1,215.40	1,223.25	Cherokee Village	39,840.45	37,993.69
Wynne	80,417.89	85,376.47	Hartman	5,440.31	5,246.37	Newton County	44,491.44	50,043.05	Evening Shade	4,438.13	4,232.41
Dallas County	151,570.31	150,638.13	Knoxville	7,662.55	7,389.39	Jasper	1,780.42	2,002.58	Hardy	7,499.62	7,151.98
Desha County	104,840.73	104,203.55	Lamar	16,824.08	16,224.33	Western Grove	1,467.13	1,650.20	Highland	10,735.76	10,238.11
Arkansas	4,057.49	4,032.83	Lafayette County	71,799.36	82,368.85	Ouchita County	615,887.56	636,237.46	Horseshoe Bend	82.19	78.38
Dumas	52,170.93	51,853.85	Bradley	3,383.80	3,881.93	Bearden	9,452.76	9,765.10	Sidney	1,859.49	1,773.30
McGehee	46,772.03	46,487.76	Buckner	1,481.76	1,699.89	Camden	119,216.36	123,155.45	Williford	770.51	734.80
Mitchellville	3,990.98	3,996.72	Lewisville	6,896.92	7,912.21	Chidester	2,828.00	2,921.44	St. Francis County	158,107.82	154,886.29
Reed	1,906.80	1,895.21	Stamps	9,122.25	10,465.12	East Camden	9,110.27	9,411.29	Caldwell	10,403.06	10,191.10
Tillar	232.81	231.39	Lawrence County	269,928.04	228,047.70	Louann	1,604.82	1,657.84	Cott	7,085.32	6,940.96
Watson	2,339.15	2,324.94	Alicia	728.33	819.93	Stephens	8,718.85	9,006.94	Forrest	288,118.00	282,247.44
Drew County	426,677.36	473,153.11	Black Rock	3,888.34	4,377.39	Perry County	100,441.10	102,193.86	Hughes	27,010.48	26,460.12
Jerome	532.37	514.23	College City	NA	3,008.63	Adona	895.09	910.71	Madison	14,414.34	14,120.64
Monticello	129,229.36	124,826.61	Hoxie	16,328.66	18,382.41	Bigelow	1,349.06	1,372.61	Palestine	12,764.84	12,504.75
Tillar	2,784.70	2,689.83	Imboden	3,976.44	4,476.58	Casa	732.35	745.13	Wheatley	6,654.22	6,518.62
Wilmar	6,975.41	6,737.76	Lynn	1,691.60	1,904.36	Fourche	265.53	270.16	Widener	5,117.18	5,012.93
Winchester	2,279.64	2,201.98	Minturn	640.22	720.75	Houston	740.92	753.84	Stone County	83,232.99	80,536.91
Faulkner County	813,797.09	807,708.01	Portia	2,566.77	2,889.61	Perry	1,156.34	1,176.52	Fifty Six	1,520.04	1,470.80
Enola	2,478.00	2,459.46	Powhatan	422.90	476.09	Perryville	6,252.81	6,361.93	Mountain View	24,144.86	23,362.76
Holland	4,083.57	4,053.02	Ravenden	2,760.60	3,107.82	Phillips County	111,635.60	107,664.78	Union County	638,615.39	598,222.69
Mount Vernon	1,063.05	1,055.10	Sedgwick	892.79	1,005.08	Elaine	12,496.70	12,052.19	Calion	18,617.70	17,440.13
Twin Groves	2,456.01	2,437.63	Smithville	458.14	515.77	Helena-West Helena	198,022.60	190,979.02	El Dorado	792,719.90	742,580.02
Wooster	6,304.99	6,257.81	Strawberry	1,773.83	1,996.94	Lake View	8,704.45	8,394.84	Felsenthal	4,561.94	4,273.39
Franklin County	205,326.78	132,397.47	Walnut Ridge	31,353.39	32,334.54	Lexa	5,619.59	5,419.69	Huttig	25,517.66	23,903.65
Altus	8,044.33	5,187.09	Lee County	29,268.84	30,946.94	Marvell	23,303.58	22,474.83	Junction City	22,761.91	21,322.21
Branch	3,894.81	2,511.43	Aubrey	906.98	958.98	Pike County	142,258.74	149,752.83	Norphlet	28,719.38	26,902.86
Charleston	26,764.91	17,258.38	Haynes	800.28	846.16	Antoine	912.31	960.37	Smackover	75,557.25	70,778.22
Denning	4,998.52	3,223.11	LaGrange	474.83	502.06	Daisy	896.72	943.96	Strong	21,497.84	20,138.10
Ozark	39,096.72	25,210.09	Marianna	21,954.30	23,213.03	Delight	2,175.52	2,290.12	Van Buren County	288,269.62	302,163.43
Wiederkehr Village	403.28	260.04	Moro	1,152.40	1,218.47	Glenwood	17,045.47	17,943.42	Clinton	25,606.91	26,841.09
Fulton County	118,257.34	114,435.23	Rondo	1,056.37	1,116.94	Murfreesboro	12,795.80	13,469.87	Damascus	2,460.31	2,578.89
Ash Flat	467.86	452.74	Lincoln County	52,655.59	56,439.05	Pointsett County	116,378.03	116,221.40	Fairfield Bay	21,207.87	22,230.04
Cherokee Village	3,637.37	3,519.81	Gould	4,168.03	4,467.51	Fisher	1,740.63	1,738.28	Shirley	2,863.80	3,001.83
Hardy	192.65	186.42	Grady	2,235.90	2,396.55	Harrisburg	17,968.26	17,944.08	Washington County	1,551,633.41	1,496,968.34
Horseshoe Bend	77.98	75.46	Star City	11,323.88	12,137.55	Lepanto	14,775.81	14,755.92	Elkins	46,628.46	44,985.71
Mammoth Spring	4,481.35	4,336.51	Little River County	221,629.63	195,054.20	Marked Tree	20,028.91	20,001.95	Elm Springs	30,921.29	29,831.91
Salem	7,499.49	7,257.10	Ashdown	45,207.00	39,786.26	Trumann	56,948.92	56,872.27	Farmington	105,195.78	101,489.67
Viola	1,545.75	1,495.80	Foreman	9,676.96	8,516.60	Tyronza	5,947.79	5,939.79	Fayetteville	1,295,665.51	1,250,018.36
Garland County	2,171,244.85	2,282,801.32	Ogden	1,722.90	1,516.31	Waldenburn	476.14	475.49	Goshen	18,859.17	18,194.75
Fountain Lake	7,371.19	7,749.91	Wilton	3,579.50	3,150.55	Weiner	5,588.72	5,581.23	Greenland	22,785.96	21,983.20
Hot Springs	221,028.85	232,385.10	Winthrop	1,837.76	1,617.40	Polk County	247,957.22	264,216.10	Johnson	59,060.37	56,979.64
Lonsdale	1,377.51	1,448.30	Logan County	106,311.40	98,411.55	Cove	7,437.74	7,925.44	Lincoln	39,602.50	38,207.28
Mountain Pine	11,283.93	11,863.67	Blue Mountain	1,047.49	969.65	Grannis	10,786.68	11,493.98	Prairie Grove	77,937.15	75,191.37
Grant County	192,526.65	182,816.05	Booneville	33,705.40	31,200.80	Hatfield	8,041.32	8,568.62	Springdale	1,130,405.65	1,090,580.71
Greene County	523,358.80	535,191.90	Caulksville	1,799.31	1,665.61	Mena	11,702.44	119,026.92	Tontitown	43,317.98	41,591.86
Delaplaine	1,349.99	1,380.51	Magazine	7,155.01	6,623.33	Vandervoort	1,693.94	1,805.00	West Fork	40,799.90	39,362.50
Lafe	5,330.12	5,450.64	Morrison Bluff	540.64	500.46	Wickes	14,680.79	15,643.42	Winslow	6,885.11	6,642.52
Marmaduke	12,929.62	13,221.96	Paris	29,836.46	27,619.36	Poppe County	373,473.99	372,816.93	White County	963,192.48	928,217.41
Oak Grove Heights	10,346.03	10,579.95	Ratcliff	1,706.39	1,579.59	Atkins	44,853.17	44,774.25	Bald Knob	37,483.29	36,122.21
Paragould	303,898.52	310,769.65	Scranton	1,892.23	1,751.62	Dover	20,493.26	20,457.20	Beebe	94,646.28	91,209.52
Hempstead County	385,579.58	382,166.36	Subiaco	4,831.95	4,472.90	Hector	6,692.28	6,680.51	Bradford	9,820.44	9,463.85
Blevins	3,600.24	3,568.37	Lonoke County	287,770.43	271,255.98	London	15,451.74	15,424.55	Garner	3,674.58	3,541.15
Emmet	491.46	487.11	Allport	1,163.63	1,096.85	Pottsville	42,206.00	42,131.74	Georgetown	1,604.39	1,546.14
Fulton	2,297.29	2,276.96	Austin	20,621.52	19,438.10	Russellville	415,218.94	414,488.47	Griffithville	2,911.20	2,805.49
Hope	115,379.00	114,357.64	Cabot	240,577.70	226,771.53	Prairie County	111,466.36	59,945.18	Higginson	8,034.91	7,743.15
McCaskill	1,097.21	1,087.50	Carlisle	22,402.38	21,116.76	Biscoe	4,631.94	2,491.00	Judsonia	26,123.15	25,174.58
McNab	777.19	770.31	Coy	971.38	915.63	Des Arc	21,909.19	11,782.48	Kensett	21,322.91	20,548.64
Oakhaven	720.05	713.67	England	28,584.79	26,944.38	DeValls Bluff	7,898.54	4,247.73	Letona	3,299.36	3,179.55
Ozan	971.49	962.89	Humnoke	2,873.66	2,708.74	Hazen	18,731.91	10,073.78	McRae	8,824.16	8,503.74
Patmos	731.48	725.00	Keo	2,590.34	2,441.69	Ulm	2,169.22	1,166.58	Pangburn		

Civic group promotes “All-America Conversations”

The National Civic League, a Denver-based organization that promotes effective local government, is launching a new initiative aimed at bridging divides in our cities and towns and creating a sense of civic pride and inclusiveness through meaningful conversation. The All-America Conversations program includes a downloadable toolkit, a free resource that provides municipal leaders with everything necessary to hold productive and meaningful conversations, from how to recruit participants, where to hold conversations, and selecting and preparing facilitators, to what questions to ask. For more information on the program and to download the free toolkit, visit www.nationalcivicleague.org/all-america-conversations.

IIMC announces 48th Municipal Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a professional nonprofit association with 10000 members comprised of city, town, township, village, borough, deputy and county clerks throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries, announces its 48th annual Municipal Clerks Week, May 7 through May 13. This event features a weeklong series of activities aimed at increasing the public’s awareness of municipal clerks and the vital services they provide for local government and the community.

IIMC has sponsored Municipal Clerks Week since 1969. In 1984 and 1994, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, respectively, signed a proclamation officially declaring Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May and recognizing the essential role municipal clerks play in local government. During this week, municipal clerks throughout the world will host open houses and tours of municipal clerk’s offices, visit local schools, and participate in various other events.

To learn about ways to participate, visit the IIMC online at www.iimc.com.

Great American Cleanup in Arkansas gets underway

Arkansans statewide are encouraged to spruce up their communities by volunteering in the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup in Arkansas. This year’s spring cleanup campaign, coordinated and promoted by the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB), runs March 20 through May 31. All Arkansans are encouraged to take part in the annual community cleanup initiative. Last year’s Great American Cleanup featured 160 local events across the state involving nearly 7,000 Arkansans, who picked up more than 290,000 pounds of litter and collected over 839,000 pounds of bulky waste, from roughly 780 miles of roadway and waterway.

Those interested in organizing a cleanup event or volunteering with a local event can visit KeepArkansasBeautiful.com, email info@KeepArkansasBeautiful.com or call (888) 742-8701 toll-free.

“The Great American Cleanup is an excellent opportunity for Arkansans to make a positive impact on the environment, the state and their local communities,” said Elizabeth Philpott, KAB volunteer program manager. “We encourage everyone to participate in a local event or sign up to coordinate an event.”

KAB will work with cleanup coordinators to plan and publicize their local events, and provide volunteers with trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and other cleanup supplies. 🗑️

Obituaries

KEN BARTON, 75, a Lakeview alderman, died Feb. 24.

DARRELL RAY NEWTON, 83, who served for 16 years as mayor of Hackett as well as serving as an alderman, died Feb. 17.

LEE ALISON SCHOONOVER, 69, a Ward alderman, died Jan. 21.



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Standing from left:
Bo Bittle, Lindsey Ollar,
Kevin Faught, Michael
McBryde, Andrew Stephens,
Mark McBryde, Jack Truemper

Seated from left:
Michele Casavechia,
Jason Holsclaw, Leigh
Ann Biernat, Dennis Hunt
(Executive Vice President and
Director of Public Finance)

Stephens is unique because of our storied tradition in municipal finance and because of our people. Our Arkansas public finance bankers have almost 100 years of combined experience, with many of them having also served in the public sector during their careers. Because of this experience, we know how vital it is that public funds be managed with sound judgement and care, and this awareness is the foundation of each of our financing strategies. Our people stand ready and committed to developing public project financing solutions that your community can be proud of for years to come. Call us today.

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