

# City&Town

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**NLC** NATIONAL  
LEAGUE  
OF CITIES



**2017-2018 NLC President  
Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola**





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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola has been elected the new president of the National League of Cities, a first for an Arkansas official. He began his yearlong term at the 2017 NLC City Summit in November in Charlotte, N.C. Read about the eventful conference inside beginning on page 6. Read also about Lamar Mayor Jerry Boen, the League’s 2017-2018 District 4 vice president. Early-bird deadlines are approaching for the 2018 Winter Conference, Jan. 10-12 in Fort Smith. Registration information and a tentative agenda is inside starting on page 18.—atm

## Features

- 6 Stodola named NLC president**  
In an Arkansas first, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola has been named president of the National League of Cities for the coming year. He took office at the 2017 City Summit held in November in Charlotte, N.C., which featured educational sessions aimed at cities of all sizes.
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Publisher <b>Don Zimmerman</b>	Communications Director <b>Whitnee V. Bullerwell</b>
Editor <b>Andrew T. Morgan</b>	Graphic Designer <b>Mark R. Potter</b>
Advertising Assistant <b>Tricia Zello</b>	Email: <b>citytown@arml.org</b>



[www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org)

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Friends,

I want to start by congratulating Mayor Mark Stodola, who was elected NLC president at the City Summit in Charlotte. This was a first for Arkansas and a highlight of an overall exceptional conference. I attended several informative work sessions, including "Recruiting for a 21st Century Workforce" and "Tax Reform—What it Means for Cities." The general sessions also featured inspiring keynotes by Gabby Giffords with her husband, Astronaut Mark Kelly, and basketball legend Magic Johnson.

Back here at home, I'm glad to report that 100 cities in Arkansas have passed a resolution requesting a special session on the collection of online sales tax. If your city is not one of them, I strongly encourage you to pass a resolution showing your support for this initiative. Your municipality and residents will benefit greatly should we be successful in our efforts to begin collecting sales tax on all Internet purchases. As the holiday season ramps up, we all feel the impact of sales tax on our cities.

Here in Springdale, we get into the full holiday swing. I want to wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our community to yours. One of the highlights of the holidays in Springdale is our Shop with a Cop event. Every year, the Springdale Police Department partners with the Springdale Fraternal Order of Police to host Shop with a Cop. Community members donate money so our police department can buy items for children in need locally. Thanks to the generosity of our Springdale family, this year we exceeded the highest annual collections by more than \$8,000 for a total of almost \$50,000 raised. These donations will ensure that many more families in our community will have a bright holiday.

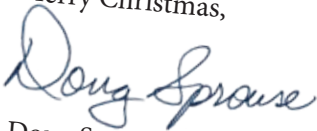
In addition to the police department, many of our departments get into the holiday spirit. For example, the Shiloh Museum teamed up with the Downtown Springdale Alliance to offer photos with Santa during the Christmas on the Creek celebration, the fire department has a Christmas open house each year where families can come take photos with Firefighter Santa, and our public library offers an event where residents can make ornaments out of their favorite photos. These family friendly events are very popular with our residents. We look forward to them every year.

Although the holidays signal the end of a year, we have a lot to look forward to in 2018. Our city council voted to hold a special election on Feb. 13, 2018, so Springdale voters can decide if the city can sell bonds to finance capital improvements. The \$200 million bond issue will have a positive impact on our residents and be a catalyst for residential and business development. Over the next few months, we'll be working hard to encourage residents to get out and vote in February.

Another thing to look forward to in early 2018 is the League's Winter Conference. Don't forget to get registered for the conference that will be held Jan. 10-12 at the Fort Smith Convention Center. The schedule is full of important sessions covering a variety of topics we face in local government, such as open carry, medical marijuana, and panhandling. Winter Conference attendees hear about the Legislative Task Force updates from state senators and representatives serving on the respective Interim Committees. Continuing certification credits will be offered during the conference, too.

I hope your holiday season is filled with joy and prosperity, and I look forward to continuing our great work together in the New Year.

Merry Christmas,



Doug Sprouse  
Mayor, Springdale  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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**NOTE:** Names submitted for positions on committees, councils and boards received after the issue print date will appear in the next issue of *City & Town*.



With more than 70 in attendance, it was the largest ever Arkansas delegation to the annual City Summit.

# Stodola ascends to presidency at NLC City Summit

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola has ascended to the presidency of the National League of Cities. His election was made official during the NLC’s annual business meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the 2017 City Summit in Charlotte, N.C., which brought together 4,000 city leaders from across the country. The NLC president serves a one-year term. Mayor Stodola is the first ever Arkansas municipal official to serve as NLC president.

As the incoming president, Stodola addressed NLC member city officials at a Nov. 18 luncheon. He thanked outgoing President Matt Zone, a Cleveland, Ohio, councilmember, for his service and leadership during “a year of incredible change in our country.” He stressed the importance of the NLC in helping city leaders become better public servants at home and advocates for city issues on the national level.

“We have come to Charlotte from across America, all 50 states, for one reason: to make our cities stronger,” Stodola said. “We’re here to find better ways to serve our communities, to advocate more effectively for local priorities, and to become the best leaders we can be for our people, our friends, our neighbors, and in our communities.”

City leaders must be passionate about transformation, both creating it and preparing for it, Stodola said. He outlined his and the NLC’s priorities for 2018, including creating more job-training opportunities in our changing economy, and expanding access to education at all levels but especially early childhood education.

“We are not going to wait on the future to happen to our cities,” Stodola said. “We are going to make the future happen for our cities.”



Stodola

After introducing Stodola, NLC Second Vice President Karen Freeman-Wilson, mayor of Gary, Ind., asked him to turn and view the large projector screen as former President Bill Clinton congratulated him on his achievement.

“You are the right person to be leading NLC at this time,” Clinton told him via video message.

To celebrate the beginning of Stodola’s term as NLC president, a reception was held Friday evening, Nov. 17

during the Summit that featured soulful, funky music by Little Rock trumpeter Rodney Block and vocalist Nicky Parrish backed by the band Kemistri.

## City Summit general sessions cover NLC agenda, feature special guests

Outgoing NLC President and Cleveland, Ohio, Councilmember Matt Zone addressed the City Summit opening general session the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 16, and discussed the challenges cities have faced in the last year, including the transition to the Trump presidency, and natural disasters that have included floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

“I was filled with pride to see so many leaders coming together to help those in need,” Zone said.



Zone

“That’s what leaders do,” he said. “Leaders lead.”

It’s essential that the NLC leaders and member cities continue to fight for issues important to them at the federal level, Zone said. That includes protecting municipal bonds and Community Development Block Grants, and improving economic mobility and opportunity. To that end, Zone created a task force last year of city leaders from across the country that has produced a report featuring recommendations for initiatives that have proven effective in communities of all sizes. The report can be downloaded from the NLC’s website at [www.nlc.org/resource/keeping-the-american-dream-alive](http://www.nlc.org/resource/keeping-the-american-dream-alive). Cities are where the innovation is, Zone said, and he challenged local officials to use their positions to move their cities forward.

“We need your leadership and your strength to lift up those who need it the most,” Zone said.

As Congress continues to work to overhaul the nation’s tax system, NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony said the NLC is fighting to make sure several items remain intact that cities consider



Anthony

non-negotiable. They include preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, preserving the deduction on local and state taxes, and preserving important tax credits that help cities build strong, vibrant communities.

As of this writing, the version of the law that has passed in the Senate limits or eliminates several key credits for cities and reduces the deductibility of local and state taxes.

“I need each of you to tell your representatives that they must support these essential elements of our tax code,” Anthony said.

Combating our nation’s opioid epidemic is another of NLC’s top priorities. Nashville, Tenn., Mayor Megan Barry, whose 22-year-old son died from an overdose, shared her story and her efforts to mitigate this crisis. Americans consume 80 percent of the world’s opioid drugs, she said, and overdoses are now the leading cause of death among adults under age 50.



Barry

“Think about the loss of potential,” she said. “Think about what our communities are losing.”

There are things cities can do in the face of this crisis, she said, including training first responders and providing them with Narcan, one of the brand-name versions of the medication Naloxone, which when administered in time can save the life of someone who has overdosed. Cities can also make sure treatment facilities are available for abusers, she said.

In 2016 the NLC joined with the National Association of Counties to form the National City-County Task Force Addressing Heroin and Opioid Abuse. The task force released a report called “A Prescription for Action” outlining what local leaders can do in the fight against this epidemic. Read the report and learn more online at [opioidaction.org](http://opioidaction.org).



Katz, left, with NLC’s Brooks Rainwater

Reiterating Matt Zone’s proclamation that cities are America’s innovators, Bruce Katz with the Brookings Institution said that “localism is how we’re going to solve problems in the United States, not in just the next three or four years, but frankly going forward in the century.” Katz spoke during the morning general session on Nov. 17.

From education, infrastructure, climate change, to social and economic mobility, cities large and small will be the leaders, Katz said.

“These are issues that essentially are going to be solved bottom-up rather than top-down,” Katz said. “Our federal government is essentially a health insurance company with an army, and it’s not really driving the future.”

Innovation at the local level will be “networked,” he said, with an emphasis on public-private partnerships. And it will be global.

“We’re going to be thinking about ideas, capital, and innovation moving across cities around the world,” Katz said.

City leaders represent direct democracy in its most pure form at the local level, Katz said, and he urged local officials to use their positions to bring stakeholders to the table.

“The convening power you have—of bringing together businesses and philanthropy and universities and so forth around the table to co-problem solve—is quite remarkable,” he said.

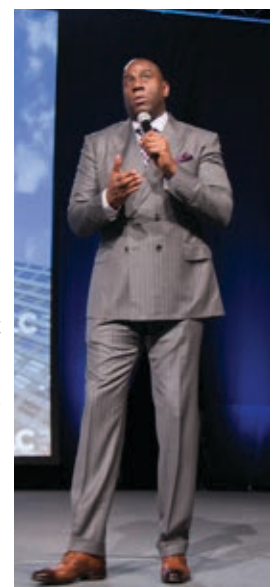


Giffords and Kelly

Retired astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain Mark Kelly and his wife, former state legislator and U.S. Congresswoman Gabby Giffords addressed city leaders the afternoon of Nov. 16. Kelly spoke of his NASA adventures and the sensation of orbiting this blue marble, watching the sun rise and set every 45 minutes. Kelly was in Houston training for his fourth space flight when he learned that his wife had been shot while meeting with her constituents in Tucson in January 2011. Six people died at the event. Giffords survived, and although the recovery has been long and difficult, she and Kelly have turned the tragedy into a story of perseverance.

“My spirit is strong as ever,” Giffords said. “I’m still fighting to make the world a better place and you can too. Get involved with your community. Be a leader. Set an example. Be passionate. Be courageous. Be your best.”

Basketball legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson spoke at the City Summit’s closing luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 18. He regaled the crowd with descriptions of what it was like competing against other NBA greats of his era, like Michael Jordan and his chief rival, Larry Bird. Magic encouraged city leaders to both support and invest in minority-owned and minority-focused businesses. The profit potential is there, he said, citing several of his own successful



Magic Johnson



business ventures. Magic took several minutes of his presentation to gather the Summit's youth delegates around him and offered them words of advise.

"Don't let anybody define who you are or who you can become," he said. "And if they don't believe in your dreams, they can't be your friends."

## City Summit workshops cover array of local issues

The 2017 NLC City Summit included 70 workshops that gave city officials the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and discuss critical issues that affect cities large and small, like local economic development efforts, utilizing social media and smart technology, engaging with our diverse citizenry, combating the opioid crisis, and more.

Cities are employers, and the workshop Preparing for the New Financial Transparency Reporting Rules covered GASB 74 and 75, new rules now in effect to provide more transparency in public sector post-retirement benefit plan accounting. The new statements will require OPEB obligations to clearly appear on the employer's balance sheet in the form of a total OPEB liability. Previously, OPEB liabilities were only reported in the notes for the plan. GASB 74 and 75 change that reporting for some cities in Arkansas.

Several workshops focused on how cities can better utilize social media and smart technology tools to better govern, connect with citizens, and provide information. Facebook is, of course, a juggernaut online, with 213 million users, and 90 percent of those users access it on mobile devices like smart phones. Having a social media strategy in place is a must for cities and towns.

Instagram, the photo-sharing application, is another popular tool that cities can use. The workshop Visually Connecting with Your Community on Instagram offered tips for cities to expand their reach. Images are universal and strengthen relationships through shared experience, presenters said. The platform boasts 800 million users globally, and 500 million check it every day.

Cities must, of course, share accurate information, both online and in the local media. The workshop Transparency to Rebut Public Misinformation urged cities to take advantage of new information technology software that can help officials and employ accurate, real-time reports to share with the public and the media.

In the workshop Getting Smart about Smart Technology Pilot Programs, several city officials from across the country shared the public-private partnerships in which they're engaging to pursue initiatives such as driverless vans, using drones to survey land and



Phyllis Dickerson, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola's chief of staff, at podium, moderates a workshop on building strong response tactics for catastrophic events such as natural disasters or mass casualty attacks.

photograph parks and construction projects, and installing high-speed Internet.

In the workshop Building Strong Response Tactics for Catastrophic Events, city leaders and first responders from cities like Houston, which was devastated by Hurricane Harvey, Orlando, which lost lives in the tragic Pulse Nightclub shooting, and Little Rock, which suffered a nightclub shooting event of its own, shared their experiences and offered tips on better preparing for future events.

Workshops like Recruiting for the 21st Century, Big Ideas for Small Cities, Energizing Your City's Youth, Establishing Cities for All Ages, The Art of Economic Collaboration for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs, and Leading Community Resilience all focused on improving cities' economic and social mobility from different but related perspectives. Citizens of all ages should have a seat at the table, and research is showing that so-called Baby Boomers and Millennials have more in common than we might think, including a desire for safe communities, good transportation that includes walking and bike trails, and an emphasis on wellness. Participating in the NLC's Mayor's Youth Challenge has been a great success in Caldwell, Ind., where the city council worked with young people to create a youth master plan document that outlines goals for safety, afterschool programs, health, wellness, and more. In Montevallo, Ala., the Junior Youth Council helped stimulate the local economy by convincing Taco Bell to locate a restaurant in the city.

All cities and towns that are members of the Arkansas Municipal League are also members of the NLC and may take advantage of its many resources. Learn more at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

*The League's Sheila Boyd, Whitnee Bullerwell, and Ken Wasson contributed to this coverage.*



Lamar Mayor and League 2017-2018 District 4 Vice President Jerry Boen.

# District 4 VP works to keep Lamar clean and inviting

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**W**hen Lamar Mayor Jerry Boen, the League’s 2017-2018 District 4 vice president, meets with me at city hall, he’s not wearing a suit and tie, or even business casual. He’s wearing his dark blue City of Lamar work shirt. He’s just come from the city shop, where a breaker box has been on the fritz, and he’ll be heading back to finish fixing it when this interview is through.

When Boen first became mayor in 2007, the position was part time in the Johnson County city of just over 1,600. For a time he tried to continue his regular job, building houses.

“Honestly, I wasn’t doing either job as well as I could have been,” he says.

When one of the city’s maintenance workers quit, Boen convinced the city council to let him take on those duties and the full-time pay, which allowed him to leave his contractor job and actually ended up saving the city money on insurance and benefits.

“Plus I’ve worked outside my whole life, and the mowing and weed-eating—I’ve never thought I was too good to do any of that.”

Boen grew up about an hour north of Lamar, in Newton County in the small community of Limestone, and he went to school at nearby Deer. He moved to Lamar when he was in eighth grade and finished school there. He and his wife, Michele, met and married while they were still in high school. He joined the Marines directly after graduation, and when he returned to



Improving the city’s parks has been one of Mayor Boen’s priorities.



The local school district, which will soon feature a new high school building, is the city's best asset, the mayor says.

Lamar he went to work as a contractor. Michele teaches History at Lamar and they have three children and three grandchildren.

After Boen and his wife built a house in Lamar, they became concerned when some folks wanted to put in a scrap yard just down from them in the middle of this residential area. He took his concerns to the planning and zoning committee, who kicked it to the city council, who kicked it back to planning and zoning, all without making a decision.

"After four months of this I told my wife that I could make a decision and stick by it, so I ran for city council," Boen says.

He won a seat on the council in 2004. He had experience with budgeting, so they put him in charge of that. After three years, when the previous mayor announced he was leaving before his term was complete, the council asked Boen to step into the position and finish the year.

"It fit because I was already doing the budget, and I was more familiar with our water and sewer system than anyone on the council."

Lamar comprises a narrow strip along Arkansas 64 starting on the north side of I-40 and ending at the Clarksville city limits. It doesn't have a traditional downtown, and it can be difficult to convince new businesses to open up shop there. The Dollar General is the biggest contributor to the city's sales tax revenue. The school system is Lamar's biggest employer and the biggest asset, Boen says.

"With our geographic location, with Clarksville just three miles away, it's hard to compete for businesses. So we mostly try to compete for people. If I can get them to live here in Lamar and work in Clarksville then I'm content with that."

To that end, Boen has made it his priority to get Lamar cleaned up by clearing overgrown lots and tearing

down dilapidated structures. And he's found that when you clean up one lot, the surrounding properties tend to follow. The city has been able to step in when folks don't have the resources to clean a property. They'll clear it out, cut the brush, and then ask that the owner keep it maintained after that, he says, and they've had success. There are several brand new houses on lots the city has transformed in just the last several years. The city is working now to improve its streetscapes and add sidewalks.

Boen sits on the State Aid Street Committee, and that's been a very educational experience in working with other mayors from cities of all sizes across Arkansas, he says.

"That is the best committee you could possibly be on," he says. "I have learned a lot working with all of them. We just try to take a common-sense approach on it. We try to make sure everybody gets the aid that they need."

For a city of its size, Lamar has added some excellent amenities, including a wellness center and parks with modern playground and exercise equipment. That didn't happen without some pushback, Boen says.



Dollar General is Lamar's best source of sales tax revenue, and the mayor is working to convince other businesses to set up shop in the city.

"When I was elected that was another thing I wanted to do—spend some time and money and make the parks where we're proud of them."

The council at the time wasn't enthusiastic, he says, but ended up going along with his ideas. Once the improvements were made and the children and families began really enjoying the new facilities, they came around and saw the value in it, he says.

"It was amazing, the difference it made," Boen says. 🏛️

# Reminder: By Resolution is the Best Way to Pass Your Budget

Most cities and towns in Arkansas are legally obligated to pass their city's or town's budget on or before February 1 of each year.

## Budgets in Mayor-Council Municipalities

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-201. Annual submission.

On or before December 1 of each year, the mayor of all cities and incorporated towns having the mayor-council form of government shall submit to the governing body of the city or town, for its approval or disapproval, a proposed budget for operation of the city or town from January 1 to December 31 of the forthcoming year.

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-202. Adoption of budget.

Under this subchapter, the governing body of the municipality shall, on or before February 1 of each year, adopt a budget by ordinance or resolution for operation of the city or town.

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-203. Appropriations and changes.

- (a) The approval by the municipal governing body of the budget under this subchapter shall, for the purposes of the budget from time to time amount to an appropriation of funds which are lawfully applicable to the items therein contained.
- (b) The governing body may alter or revise the budget and unpledged funds appropriated by the governing body for any purpose may be subsequently, by action of the governing body, appropriated to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:
  - (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statutes or ordinances for specific purposes may not be diverted to another purpose;
  - (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

## Budgets in City Administrator-Director Municipalities

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-117(6)

He or she [the City Administrator] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption....

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-122

- (a) The approval of the budget by the board of directors shall amount to an appropriation, for the purposes of the budget, of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.
- (b) The board may alter or revise the budget from time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board for any specific purpose may by subsequent action of the

board be appropriated to another purpose subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
- (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

## Budgets in City Manager-Director Municipalities

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-120

- (6) He or she [the City Manager] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption; ....


### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-140

- (a)(1) Any municipality organized and operating under the city manager form of government may authorize the mayor of the municipality to have the following duties and powers if approved by the qualified electors of the municipality at an election called by the municipal board of directors by referendum or by the qualified electors of the municipality by initiative:

- (E) The power to prepare and submit to the board of directors for its approval the annual municipal budget;

### Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-125

- (a) The approval by the board of directors of the budget shall amount to an appropriation for the purposes of the budget of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.
- (b) The board may alter or revise the budget from time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board for any specific purpose may be appropriated by subsequent action of the board to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:
  - (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
  - (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

A sample budget resolution can be accessed via [www.arml.org/mldp](http://www.arml.org/mldp) under the "Legal FAQs" page for your convenience. Please call or email the League with any questions you may have. 

# NOTICE:

## Annexation Reports Due March 1

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

(a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.

(2) The written notice shall include:

(A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and

(B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.

(b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.

(c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

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

(a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:

(1) Have all the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the annexing city or incorporated town; and

(2) (A) Be extended the scheduled services within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final.

(B) The mayor of the municipality shall file a report with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk of the extension of scheduled services.

(b) If the scheduled services have not been extended to the area and property boundaries of the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall:

(1) Include a written plan for completing the extension of services and estimated date of completion; and

(2) Include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.

(c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with any additional annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been extended as required under this subchapter.

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

## Time to levy property taxes

**C**ity and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. *Id.* Arkansas Code section 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the Quorum Court to determine whether its levying meeting will be in November or December. It is important also to bear in mind that the city council must levy and certify its taxes annually, as failure to levy by the required date will result in a millage of zero for the following year (*See* Ark. Ops. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044 and 85-5).

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the meeting of the Quorum Court at which county taxes are levied.

# Reminder to All City Councils Regarding First Council Meeting of 2018

The 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature in 2015, via Act 235, amended A.C.A. § 14-43-501 regarding the organization at the beginning of a new year of the governing bodies of cities and towns.

## **A.C.A. § 14-43-501. Organization of governing body**

- (a)(1) The members of a governing body elected for each city or town shall annually in January assemble and organize the governing body.
- (2)(A) A majority of the whole number of members of a governing body constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (B)(i) The governing body shall judge the election returns and the qualifications of its own members.
- (ii) These judgments are not subject to veto by the mayor.
- (C)(i) The governing body shall determine the rules of its proceedings and keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection and examination of any citizen.
- (ii) The governing body may also compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as it prescribes.
- (iii) The governing body may consider the passage of rules on the following subjects, including without limitation:
- (a) The agenda for meetings;
  - (b) The filing of resolutions and ordinances; and
  - (c) Citizen commentary.
- (b)(1)(A) In the mayor-council form of government, the mayor shall be ex officio president of the city council and shall preside at its meetings.
- (B) The mayor shall have a vote to establish a quorum of the city council at any regular or special meeting of the city council and when his or her vote is needed to pass any ordinance, bylaw, resolution, order, or motion.
- (2) In the absence of the mayor, the city council shall elect a president pro tempore to preside over council meetings.
- (3) If the mayor is unable to perform the duties of office or cannot be located, one (1) of the following individuals may perform all functions of a mayor during the disability or absence of the mayor:
- (A) The city clerk;
  - (B) Another elected official of the city if designated by the mayor; or
  - (C) An unelected employee or resident of the city if designated by the mayor and approved by the city council.
- (c) As used in this section, “governing body” means the city council in a mayor-council form of government, the board of directors in a city manager form of government, and the board of directors in a city administrator form of government.



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# IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

**A**ct 166 of the 2016 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, 2018.

You can access Act 166 and the required reporting document online at:  
[www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2016F/Acts/Act166.pdf](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2016F/Acts/Act166.pdf)

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 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 county report shall be made utilizing the County Financial Management System of tracking county revenues and expenditures. 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 and total amount of money spent on the project. The report shall be submitted annually no later than March 15 for the previous year's projects. The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Finally, you have been requested, to the extent possible, to identify the type of projects using the following categories below:

- Bicycle Paths
- Bridges
- Drainage Maintenance
- Highways
- Hot Mix, Asphalt, Gravel, Concrete, Paint, Steel
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Intermodal Facilities
- Other Surface/Water Transportation
- Parking Facilities
- Pedestrian Ways
- Port Authorities
- Public Transit Systems
- Railroads
- Roads/Streets
- Safety Improvements
- Sidewalks
- Lighting/Right of Way Maintenance
- Toll Facilities
- Traffic Management Systems
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Trails
- Traveler Information Systems
- Tunnels
- Waterways
- Other

The report shall be submitted annually no later than March 15 for the previous year's projects. Please ensure this message is forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Direct all questions regarding this reporting requirement to:

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



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## MEETING CALENDAR

**January 10-12, 2018**

**Arkansas Municipal League's  
2018 Winter Conference**

Fort Smith, AR

**March 11-14**

**National League of Cities  
Congressional City Conference**

Washington, DC

**June 13-15, 2018**

**Arkansas Municipal League's  
84th Convention**

Statehouse Convention Center  
Little Rock, AR





# 2018 Winter Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton/Fort Smith City Center, January 10-12, 2018

REGISTRATION

**Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 22, 2017, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.**

Pre-registration for municipal officials . . . . .	\$150
Registration fee after <b>December 22, 2017</b> , and on-site registration for municipal officials . . . . .	\$175
Pre-registration for guests . . . . .	\$75
Registration fee after <b>December 22, 2017</b> , 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 **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2017-2018**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 22, 2017.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 22, 2017.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

## Hotel Room Rates

<b>DoubleTree by Hilton</b> (headquarters hotel)		
<del>SOLD OUT</del> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$99</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Courtyard Marriott</b>		
<del>SOLD OUT</del> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$104</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Hampton Inn</b>		
<del>SOLD OUT</del> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$94</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Comfort Inn &amp; Suites</b>		
Single/Double . . . . .	\$85	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 15, 2017.**
- Rooms in Fort Smith are subject to a 14.75 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 as penalties for cancellation can apply.

# Two ways to register <sup>2</sup>

1 Register online at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org) and pay by credit card. **OR**

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:  
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
 Attn: 2018 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

## Step 1: Attendee Information

Name: .....

Title: ..... City of: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: ... Zip: ..... Telephone: .....

Attendee only email (**required**) ..... cc email .....

Guests will attend:  Yes  No      Name: .....

(**non-city official**)      Name: .....

## 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**

Mail payment and form to:  
 Arkansas Municipal League  
 2018 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

**Credit Card** Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  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.

**DoubleTree by Hilton** ..... Reservations..... **SOLD OUT** ..... 479-783-1000  
**Courtyard Marriott** ..... Reservations..... **SOLD OUT** ..... 479-783-2100  
**Hampton Inn** ..... Reservations..... **SOLD OUT** ..... 479-452-2000  
**Comfort Inn & Suites** ..... Reservations..... 479-434-5400

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

# Tentative Agenda

January 10-12, 2018

## WEDNESDAY - January 10, 2018

10:00 A.M.	STATE AID STREET COMMITTEE	TBA
11:00 A.M.	MLWCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES	TBA
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	LOBBY
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	EXHIBIT HALL C
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITHIN YOUR DEPARTMENTS Speakers: TBA	THEATER
4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICT WITHIN YOUR CITY COUNCIL Speakers: TBA	THEATER
5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY Speakers: TBA	THEATER
7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.	OPENING NIGHT BANQUET Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Invocation: TBA Speaker: TBA	EXHIBIT HALL B
8:30 P.M.	POST BANQUET RECEPTION	EXHIBIT HALL A

TBA = TO BE ANNOUNCED

## THURSDAY A.M. - January 11, 2018

7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	LOBBY
7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M.	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	EXHIBIT HALL C
7:45 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.	VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION <i>This is a brief time set aside for those who wish to gather to pray for our national, state and local leaders.</i>	TBA
8:45 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	OPENING GENERAL SESSION: ANALYZING THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	THEATER
10:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	BREAK	EXHIBIT HALL C
10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION 2: URGENT ISSUES AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES Presiding: Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	THEATER
11:30 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.	GENERAL SESSION 3: UPDATE ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND OPIOIDS IN ARKANSAS Presiding: Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	THEATER

TBA = TO BE ANNOUNCED



# 2018 Winter Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton/Fort Smith City Center

THURSDAY P.M. - January 11, 2018		
12:15 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.	<b>VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON</b> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	EXHIBIT HALL B
2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	<b>GENERAL SESSION 4: TRENDING LEGAL MATTERS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST</b> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Speakers: TBA	THEATER
4:00 P.M.	The Exhibit Hall will close for the day.	EXHIBIT HALL C
4:00 P.M.	<b>TOUR OF THE DOWNTOWN FORT SMITH MURALS AND DINNER ON YOUR OWN</b>	
8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.	<b>RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT</b>	TBA

TBA = TO BE ANNOUNCED

FRIDAY - January 12, 2018		
7:00 A.M. to NOON	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	LOBBY
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	<b>BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN</b>	
9:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	<b>GENERAL SESSION 1: THE CHANGING ROLE OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	THEATER
10:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	<b>BREAK</b>	EXHIBIT HALL C
10:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.	<b>GENERAL SESSION 2: LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE UPDATES, HELPFUL INFO FROM LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU</b> Presiding: Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League Speakers: TBA	THEATER
11:45 A.M. to *12:15 P.M.	<b>REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNOR</b>	THEATER
12:15 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.	<b>LUNCH BUFFET</b>	EXHIBIT HALL B
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	<b>MHBF BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	TBA
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	<b>ACCRTA MEETING</b>	TBA
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	<b>WORKSHOP: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ANNEXATION BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK</b>	TBA

TBA = TO BE ANNOUNCED

\*Qualifying municipal officials must attend the 2018 Winter Conference to receive three (3) hours of continuing education credit. Scanning for credit will take place at the conclusion of General Session 2 on Friday, 1/12/18.

#### NOTICE, ALL ATTORNEYS:

There will be NO CLE Classes offered during our 2018 Winter Conference in Ft. Smith. Six (6) hours of CLE will be offered at League Headquarters on Friday, January 26, 2018.

**Go ahead and register now for #2018AMLWC here: [tinyurl.com/2018-AML-WC](http://tinyurl.com/2018-AML-WC).**

**The "early bird" deadline is Friday, December 22, 2017. Don't miss the savings! #greatcitiesgreatstate**



**The Early Bird gets the worm AND the discounted #2018AMLWC rate!**



Barling City Administrator Mike Tanner, center, alongside members of the city's board of directors, prepares to cut the ribbon on the new city hall.

## Barling opens new city hall

By Sherman Banks

**B**arling dedicated its new city hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 14. City Administrator Mike Tanner presided and led the cutting along with city board members. Also present were municipal leaders from Fort Smith, representatives from the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, and individuals from the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The Sebastian County city has a population of 4,649 and is part of the Fort Smith AR-OK Metropolitan Statistical Area. Barling had outgrown its former city hall, which will continue to be used for the fire and police departments. The auditorium in the old structure will become a community center.

In 2015 Barling negotiated with First National Bank to purchase one of their buildings located at 307 Fort Street in order to renovate it to become the new city hall. The city purchased the building for \$900,000 and spent an additional \$550,000 on remodeling. Barling was able to pay for this from the general fund and without raising

local taxes. The new space contains 6,632 square feet and is the new home to the city administration, water and utilities, the city boardroom, and the district court.

As with any ribbon cutting there was a reception with an abundance of food and drink, including punch and an enormous white cake that was decorated ornately with yellow icing. There was also a plethora of finger foods.

Following a tour of the new facility, City Administrator Tanner thanked everyone who assisted in bringing the city hall to fruition, including the untiring support of the city's board of directors, Architect A. Glen Sebourn, the engineers of EDM Consultants, Inc., and the general contractors at Glidewell Construction, Inc.



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



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# Let's Talk Pumps

Winter tips for protecting your fire apparatus

By Capt. Bob Franklin, LRFD (Ret.)

**W**e are extremely lucky in Arkansas that we do not have to contend with the severe cold our northern neighbors deal with. However, we do experience short periods of freezing temperatures that can wreak havoc on our fire equipment.

When cold weather comes to our state so does an increase in house fires. Every year we see many fire trucks that have issues with busted piping, valves, and gauges due to responding to the increase of fires in the severe cold. Below we have listed some preventive measures that you may take to protect your fire trucks from freezing.

1. Make sure the master pump drain is clear of rust and will drain the pump.
2. Make sure the pump primer works properly and primer tank has lubrication if required.
3. Check the pump gear case for water. Water in the gear case can freeze and crack housing.
4. Make sure all discharge outlet drains operate to drain water between the valve and the cap.
5. If equipped with a pre-piped deck gun, be sure all water is drained from the piping between the valve and the nozzle. This piping is usually mounted above the truck body and is exposed to the extreme temperatures when traveling down the road.

6. If equipped with hose reels mounted on top of the apparatus, place a salvage cover over the reels to trap heat from the engine exhaust and to deflect cold air when responding.
7. Know how many rpm are required for desired pressures in the event a gauge line freezes, preventing gauges from operating (e.g. 1300 rpm are required to get 150 psi).
8. Cover front mounted pumps with an old fire coat to deflect the wind.
9. When using self contained breathing apparatus (air packs) in freezing temperatures, the regulator may freeze in the closed position when exiting a burning structure. Change air packs in the cab or place air packs in the cab when not in use to prevent the regulator from freezing.

In severe cold, piping on apparatus may freeze solid in as short as a three-mile run. I hope these tips can help you prevent costly damage to your fire apparatus and keep your community's fire equipment in ready condition. If you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call at (501) 847-9199.

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



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## 2018 Act 833 information for Arkansas Fire Departments

**The 2018 Act 833 application period will open January 1, 2018 and will close June 30, 2018.**

Act 833 of 1992 "Funding for Fire Departments" is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board (AFPSB) and requires all Arkansas fire departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901 compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certified training and personal protective equipment (PPE) for all active members.

The 2018 application and guidance document will be available by Jan. 1, 2018, and can be found at [www.adem.arkansas.gov/act-833](http://www.adem.arkansas.gov/act-833) or contact Kendell Snyder at 501-683-6781 or email at [fire/emsservices@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:fire/emsservices@adem.arkansas.gov) Applications can be emailed, faxed or sent by USPS. 📧



# Three steps to managing difficult workplace relationships

Empathy can be the key.

By Michelle Joy and Jody Foster

**W**e spend a lot of our lives at work, and it makes sense to acknowledge that a difficult workplace can make life miserable. Often, there is a disruptive person at work that throws the whole place off kilter. Coworkers feel miserable, angry, and frustrated. They feel their creativity, productivity, and commitment drain away. They want something to change but don't know what steps to take and, often, just hope the difficult worker changes. Which, unfortunately, is unlikely to happen.

## The counter-intuitive solution

There is, in fact, a way forward. It can seem counter-intuitive and frustrating, but it's simple, and it works. The key is committing to it and entrusting the idea that each individual has a responsibility to help make the workplace better. The approach can be summed up in just one word: empathy. Empathy is the key to managing difficult workplace relationships.

And in this context, it means really trying to understand and appreciate the person that you likely have the least desire to think or care about. But when we look at what might be driving disruptive individuals to act the way they do, we can begin to understand them, empathize with them, and even begin to work better together with these three steps:

## Step 1: What is the pattern of behavior?

Step 1 is trying to nail down the individual's pattern of behavior. What exactly is disruptive about how they act? Maybe they are always overestimating their abilities and blaming others for any shortcomings. Perhaps the person explodes whenever their authority is threatened. Some difficult workers frustrate us by cutting corners and always falling short on tasks—and then lying about it. Yet others are a pain with their need for perfection, orderliness, and control.

Whatever it may be, the task is to figure out just what the pattern of behavior is. What is the action the bothers you and in what settings does it occur? Only by having a clear sense of the problem can you find a solution.

## Step 2: Empathy and understanding

The key here is thinking about why the person might be acting so disruptively. Much like a child throwing a tantrum, the goal is not necessarily to be bad but the difficult person often doesn't know another way to handle his or her own stressful situation. In understanding their behavior, we can have empathy for their situation, and figure out ways to engage them rather than merely complaining about how frustrating they are.

Begin by asking what you know about this person? What is her or his life like? What is the office like for her or him? What is she worried about that she covers up by being difficult? Because that's what is usually going on:

the bad actor has some internal struggle that is causing the inappropriate behavior.

Even acknowledging that general conclusion can be comforting. The person that is making your life miserable is actually insecure and taking it out on you. The arrogant, condescending person is often covering up their own feelings of inadequacy. Once you understand this, you can acknowledge that little compliments might avoid a blowout. The inflexible micromanager is only controlling you because he is out of control and overwhelmed. Recognizing this can provide for the technique of avoiding challenges over details and expressing appreciation for their dedication, while emphasizing yours.

While each difficult person might be different, there tend to be general types. Once you figure out what they're struggling with to cover up, you can approach them with more empathy and specific techniques that minimize their anxiety. At the end of the day, even if you're the one doing the legwork, this will make your job and your workday more pleasant.

### Step 3: What am I contributing?

The last step is to figure out just why the person's pattern of behavior bothers you so much. As much as the disruptive coworker is labeled as a jerk or schmuck, it is just as important to figure out why we are bothered by the

behavior. Why do you hate being blamed? Does the individual remind you of someone else in your life? Is there a reason that certain demands rub you the wrong way?

By assessing your own contribution to the problem, you are more likely to be able to take a step back and diffuse some negative feelings for the disruptive person that you are carrying with you throughout the day.

While certain people at work can be extremely frustrating, we can take solace in knowing that there is a way forward. Instead of just hoping that the difficult person changes, each of us has the ability—and responsibility—to improve the office. Committing to the steps of identifying patterns of behavior, harnessing empathy, and looking at our own contributions can all help to improve our time at work.

*Michelle Joy, M.D., forensic psychiatry fellow, University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and Jody Foster, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine are authors of The Schmuck in My Office: How to Deal Effectively with Difficult People at Work (www.schmuckinmyoffice.com).*

*This article is reprinted with permission from the online November 2017 Public Management (PM) magazine, published by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, Washington, D.C.*

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# Missing money

States will lose \$211 billion in e-tail sales taxes not collected in next five years.

By Edmund Mander

States across America will collectively lose \$211 billion in revenues over the coming five years through uncollected sales taxes on Internet retail sales, according to the Marketplace Fairness Coalition.

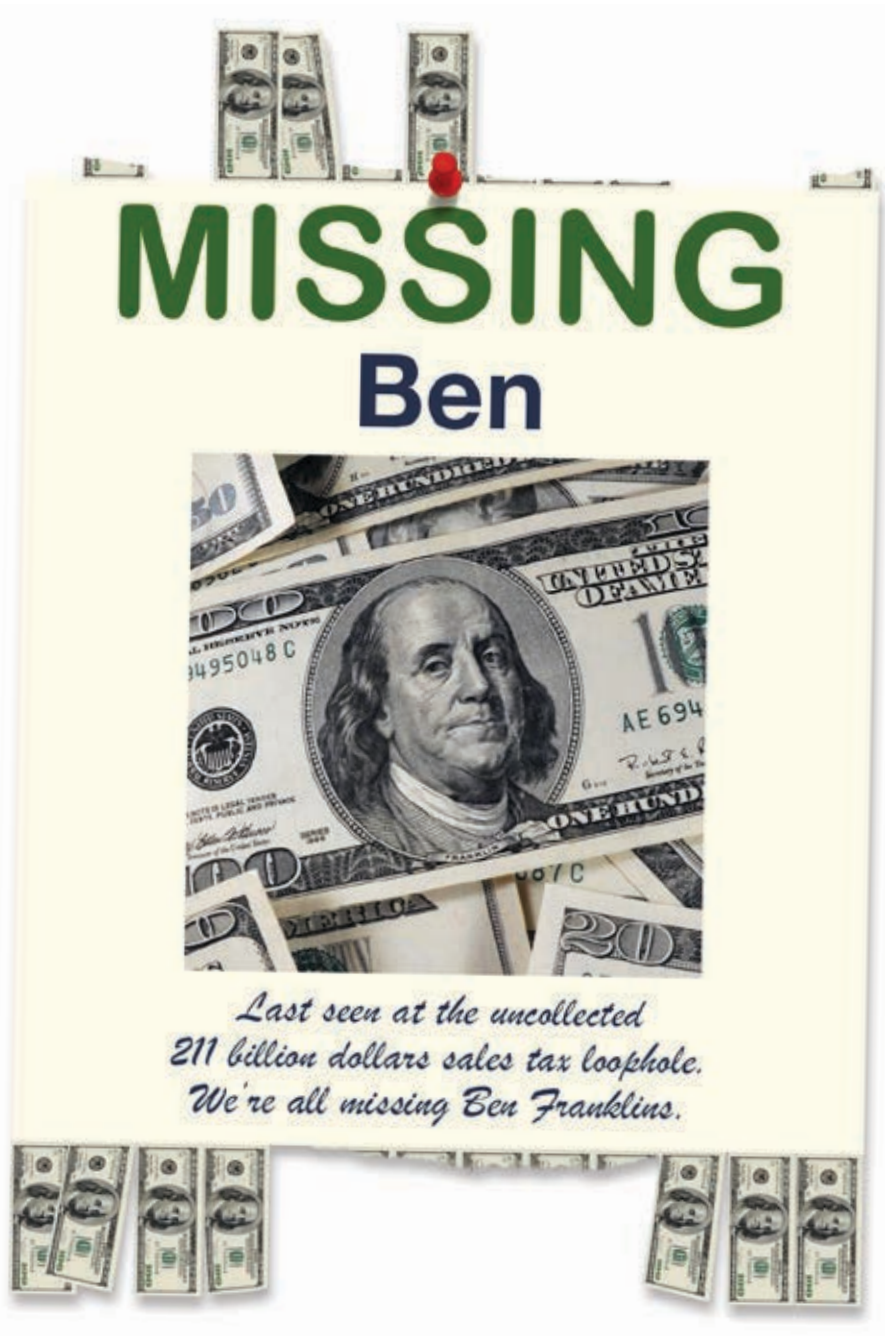
The coalition, led by the International Council of Shopping Centers, is an ad hoc group of organizations and businesses in every state and of every size pressing for legislation and court action at the federal and state levels that will require online retailers to collect and remit sales taxes—as has always been required of brick-and-mortar retailers.

“The loss of such a massive amount of revenue, totaling more than \$211 billion nationally over the next five years, will continue to threaten essential functions of state and local governments, including education and public safety,” the coalition said in a statement accompanying the report. “This data should send a loud and clear message: Now is the time for a federal solution to close the remote sales-tax loophole.”

Next year alone the states will collectively lose \$34 billion in revenues, says the coalition, which uses uncollected sales-tax data for 2015 from the National Conference of State Legislatures to calculate the projections. The coalition released an analysis that breaks down the amount each state will lose from 2018 through 2022.

Following a 1992 Supreme Court ruling, only those e-tailers with a physical presence in a state that charges sales taxes are required to collect and hand them over. Consumers buying from out-of-state retailers that do not collect are typically required to pay sales taxes on their own, but few do.

*This article appeared originally in the November 2017 issue of Shopping Centers Today, the official magazine of the International Council of Shopping Centers ([www.icsc.org](http://www.icsc.org)), and is reprinted with permission.*

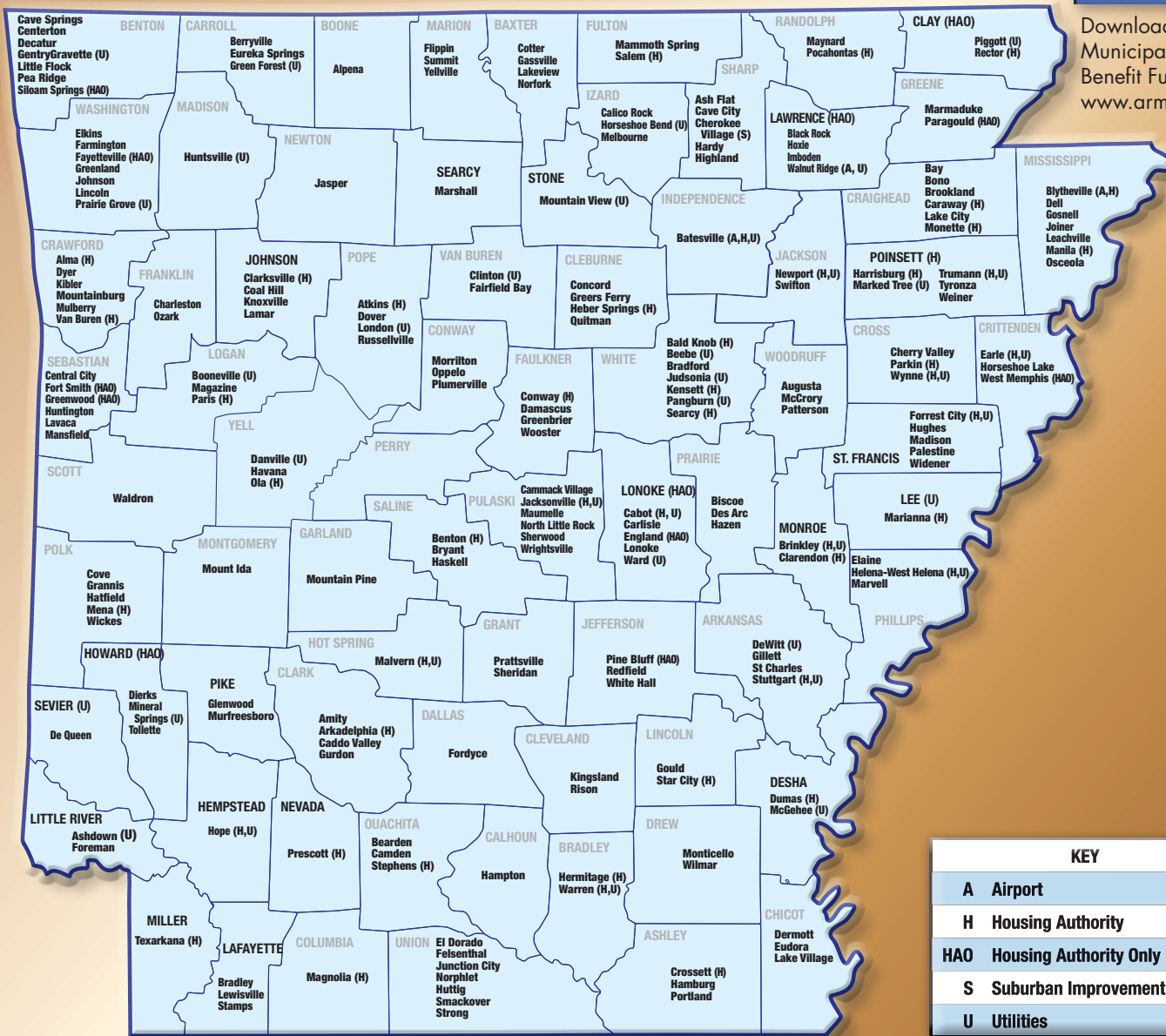


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 Northeast Public Water . . . . . Mountain Home

Northwest AR Conservation Authority . . . . . Rogers  
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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

## Retired firefighter may draw pension or compensation but not both

Opinion: 2017-087

Requestor: Eddie Cheatham, State Senator

If an individual's current duties involve the "same type of services" previously performed, does the individual qualify as a volunteer? Q2) Would it be unlawful for the individual to serve as Fire Chief and EMS Director and draw a pension from the pension fund? Q3) Would this be in conflict with 29 U.S.C. sec. 203(e)(4)(A)?

**RESPONSE:** I cannot specifically opine on Questions 1 and 3. Question 1 quotes and asks about the law cited in Question 3, which is a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The application of this federal law under any given set of facts is outside the scope of an opinion from this office. Question 2 is governed by Ark. Code Ann. section 24-11-818(f), which allows a retired firefighter to "remain actively involved" in the fire department and to continue receiving his pension benefits, as long he "does not receive compensation for the service provided." Based on this statute's plain language, there is cause for suspending benefits only if it is established that the retired firefighter receives compensation for his continued service to the fire department.

## Public-private contracts must further public purpose

Opinion: 2017-088

Requestor: Eddie Cheatham, State Senator

Does an arrangement where a city contracts with a company to provide temporary paramedic staff as needed and in return the company agrees to pay each city staff member an hourly wage conflict with or violate Ark. Const. art. 12, sec. 5? Q2) Does this arrangement conflict with or violate the public purpose doctrine? **RESPONSE:** These questions involve contract interpretation and an assessment of the facts and circumstances surrounding the contracting parties. And generally, I am not authorized to act as a fact-finder in the course of issuing opinions. Subject to this limitation, the agreement in question likely does not violate art. 12, sec. 5. It appears to be a valid contract supported by adequate consideration. However, any contract that a public entity is a party to must further a public purpose. Based on the documents you submitted, it is not clear that the public-purpose doctrine is satisfied. But I emphasize that neither of the questions posed can be resolved purely as a matter of law.

*To read full Attorney General opinions online, go to [www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search](http://www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search).*

## ACAA schedules CLE in January

**T**he Arkansas City Attorney's Association (ACAA) is sponsoring a 2018 Continuing Legal Education program that includes six hours of continuing legal education, including one hour of ethics, to be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, at the Arkansas Municipal League's North Little Rock headquarters.

Tentatively the program will cover opioid class action litigation, case review, use of medical marijuana, and other items of interest.

Jonesboro City Attorney Carol Duncan, ACAA President, urges all city attorneys to register for the program as soon as possible. The registration fee for this workshop is \$150, which includes lunch. The deadline for registration is Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. There is a room block at the Wyndham Hotel adjacent to League headquarters at a discounted rate of \$109. For room reservations call 866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000. To register with a credit card online visit [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org). For more, please contact Jamie Adams at 501-978-6124, or email [jadams@arml.org](mailto:jadams@arml.org).



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

# The spirit of Gould

By Chad Gallagher

**T**he New Year is always a natural time to reflect on the previous year, learn from the past, set new goals and start all things afresh. I hope the New Year finds all of our municipal leaders dreaming of the future and thinking about strategic steps to be taken this year.

Recently, I conducted a community site visit in Gould, where I spent the day with Mayor Essie Cableton. At first glance, Mayor Cableton may come across as a local who loves her town and has decided to devote some of her “retirement” years to public service. However, there’s much more to her story than meets the eye, and one visit to Gould or even one conversation with her will assure you that she’s doing anything but taking it easy and doing a little good on the side.

In my recent trip to Gould, the mayor slowly drove me up and down every street of the city. She shared its history and its story. She spoke of its past booming days, the pains of segregation, and more recent challenges with the school’s consolidation and some community strife. We drove across the tracks that in a bygone era literally separated the black and white neighborhoods of Gould.

As the mayor spoke, I was inspired. Here I was speaking with a real, unsung hero of the Civil Rights movement. I saw the pictures from old of a young Essie with large hair and an even larger heart standing with Freedom Riders and organizers, who ran for office in the early days and won, when blacks were told not to run for office. Her hair is now grey and perfectly set but her heart for Gould is as big as ever. Too many times when we think of heroes we think of the leaders and the commanders—the George Washingtons, Abe Lincolns, Dwight Eisenhowers, and Martin Luther King Juniors. Yet, these men never stood alone. Behind them in the trenches are the thousands upon thousands of unsung heroes whose names we do not know. Mayor Essie Cableton is one of them.

Most inspiring to me is that the mayor doesn’t offer a hint of bitterness or anger from those most difficult of days. In fact, she speaks of Gould with love, affection, hope, and vision. As a small Delta town of less than 1,000

in population, without its own school district, and a local economy that has long disappeared, Gould could easily be overlooked, but I know its future is promising because it has dedicated leadership.

In her proactive efforts, Mayor Cableton is hunting down grants with the determination of a bloodhound on the trail. Most recently, the city received a FUN Park grant that has transformed a small local park into a point of community pride. She’s also applied for and received grants for the sewer and fire department and is faithfully organizing the city for new applications, including grants for the water department, the restoration of a community building, and more. This is in addition to new welcome signs soon to be mounted and her current efforts on a long-term vision plan for the city.

The mayor is representative of the best of Arkansas—individuals who, unknown to most outside of their communities, love their towns, believe in public service, and labor daily to secure a better future. It’s these people who are building a better Arkansas. I’ve seen it time and again as I crisscross Arkansas.

I left Gould that day with a new appreciation for Arkansas, a fresh admiration for community leaders, a deep respect for those who have endured struggles I can never truly understand, and a renewed commitment to help every community I can help.

It’s our pleasure to work with members of the Arkansas Municipal League. Contact us today to discuss how we might help your town with strategic planning, a community assessment and blueprint, and grant applications. The League is right: “Great cities make a great state,” and in my book it is great people who make great cities.



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



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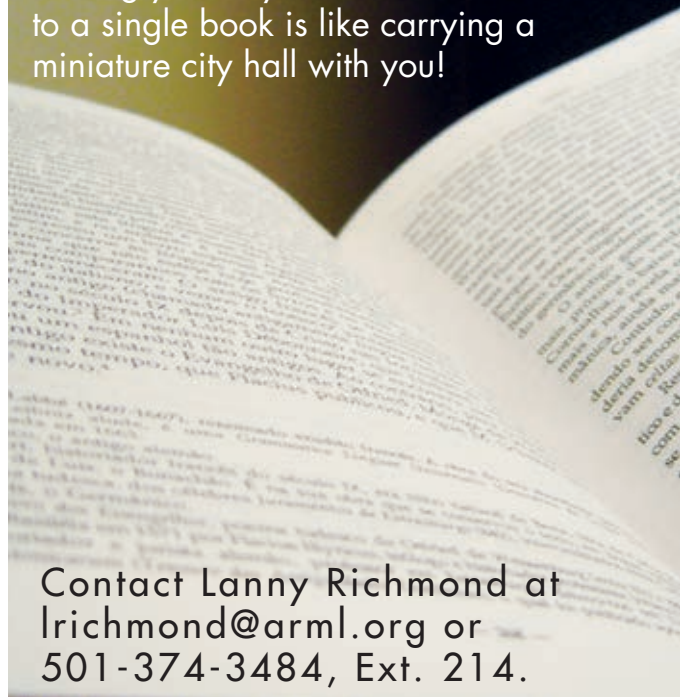
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# Pneumonia or just a cold?

By Nikhil K. Meena, M.D.

**A**re you experiencing fever? Chills? Shortness of breath? Loss of appetite? Sharp chest pain, especially with deep breathing or coughing? If so, what you think may be a run-of-the-mill cold could in fact be pneumonia.

Pneumonia occurs when air sacs in your lung become filled with fluid. This fluid can either be pus or debris from the lung. Air sacs move oxygen into blood vessels as you breathe, but when you have pneumonia, they're unable to fill with air because of pus or debris, which causes shortness of breath, one of the most common symptoms of pneumonia.

This type of infection is quite prevalent in the United States. According to the American Thoracic Society, pneumonia is the No. 1 reason for hospitalizations of children and is the most common cause for adults to be admitted to the hospital, other than childbirth.

There are many types of pneumonia, but the most common forms are bacterial and viral. The most common cause of bacterial pneumonia is strep, but can also occur as a result of staph infection. Smoking and prior lung disease both increase the risk of getting pneumonia. Viral pneumonia is caused by a host of viruses, including the flu, bronchitis, and chickenpox.

Left untreated, pneumonia can cause respiratory failure, sepsis and ultimately death, which makes it important to know the signs and symptoms so you can seek treatment immediately. Here are some tips to remember.

## Don't I just have a cold?

One of the best ways to tell you might have pneumonia instead of a cold is if you have a fever, one of the most common symptoms of pneumonia. Also, with a cold, you might have a generalized body ache, but pneumonia usually comes with discomfort or pain in the chest.

Other common pneumonia symptoms include coughing up blood or mucus, shortness of breath, nausea, extreme fatigue, and the chills. If you're experiencing these symptoms, it's important to seek medical treatment.

## Will I have to stay in the hospital?

Most of the time, pneumonia can be treated at home. However, more serious cases need to be treated at the hospital.

For bacterial pneumonia, your doctor will most likely prescribe an antibiotic. To speed up recovery, you need to get lots of rest and drink lots of fluid. If you have fever or a cough, talk to your doctor about separate medications for those symptoms.

Antibiotics are ineffective in treating viral pneumonia. In this case, plenty of rest and fluids as well as regular monitoring by your physician are key. He or she may also prescribe medicine to fight against the virus that caused the pneumonia. This is particularly true for the flu.

You should seek treatment quickly in any instance.

## Should I get the pneumonia vaccine?

There are two pneumonia vaccines with U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. Those vaccines do not prevent all forms of pneumonia, but have been proven to lower your chances of contracting the disease.

Because most pneumonia cases are among young children and older adults, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all babies and children younger than two and adults 65 or older receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13). People aged 2-64 also are advised to receive the vaccine if they are at increased risk because of a chronic illness, weakened immune system, or smoking.

For the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23), the CDC recommends the vaccine for adults over 65, adults aged 19-64 who smoke, and people ages 2-64 at an increased risk because of a weakened immune system.

There are certain instances when the vaccine would not be right for you—pregnancy, a severe allergy or history of allergic reactions to the vaccine—so consult your physician.

Following these steps and advice could help you avoid contracting the infection or speed up your recovery time.



*Nikhil K. Meena, M.D., is Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.*

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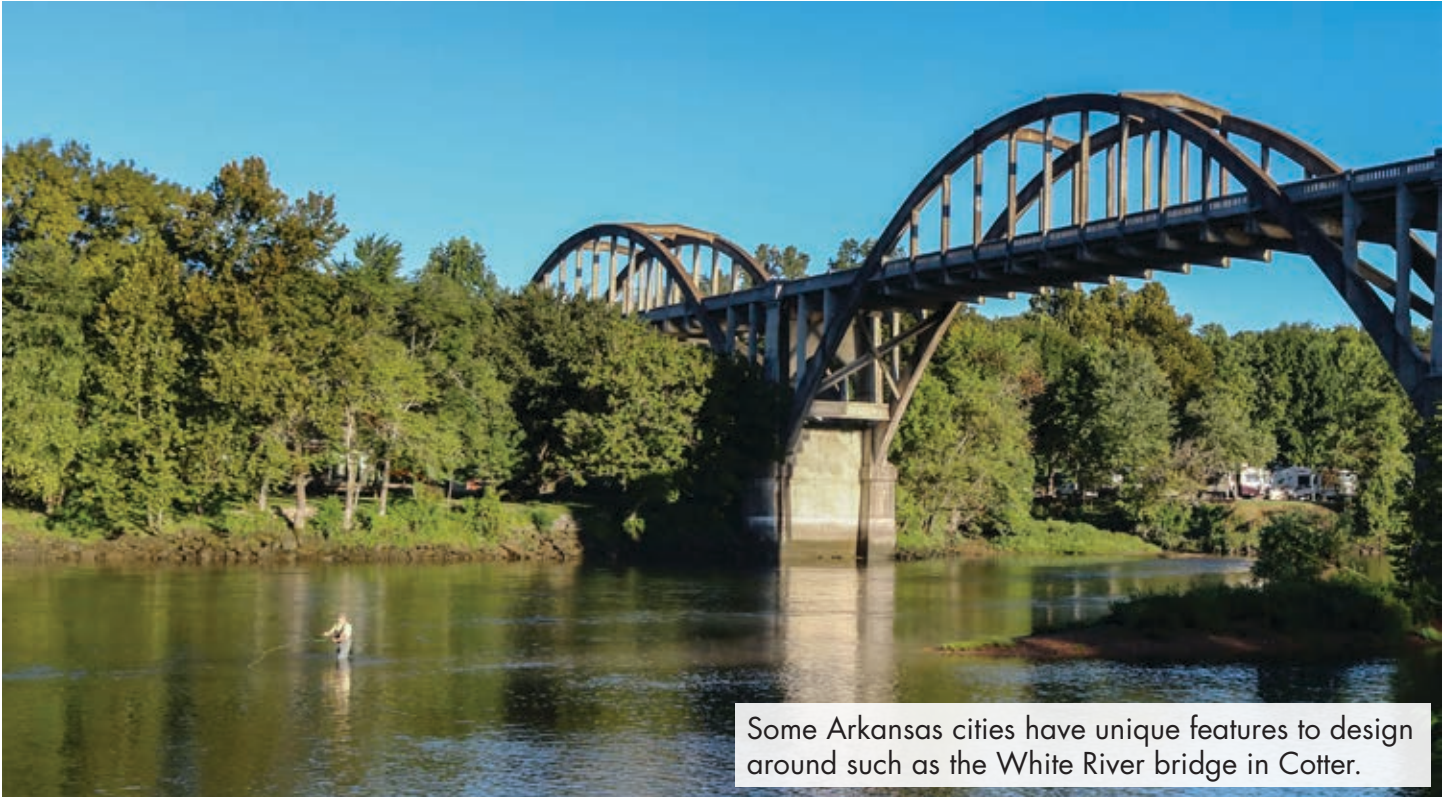
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Some Arkansas cities have unique features to design around such as the White River bridge in Cotter.

# Urban plans: One size doesn't fit all

By Jim von Tungeln

**W**hen urban planners, planning staff, and planning commissioners get together, they talk. We may ask, “About what?” They talk about urban plans. That can provide a broad and complicated conversation. The need for plans varies, and plans vary.

Plans vary in length, complexity, form, and specificity. They also vary in concept. This fact sometimes eludes even the professional. The reason resides in the physical, socio-economic, growth, and financial aspects of the community. Those factors create a great diversity in our cities. Our plans don't always reflect that diversity. This month we look at the type and intent of different planning approaches.

Much of the approach to urban planning in our state stems from Act 186 of 1957, known as The Arkansas Law on City Planning. It followed closely the recommendations of A Standard City Planning Enabling Act, created in the 1920s by a highly qualified group of attorneys and others, at the direction of then Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover. He was an advocate of city planning, commenting that, “The enormous losses in human happiness and in money, which have resulted from lack of city plans which take into account the conditions of modern life need little proof.”

Along with its companion document, A Standard Zoning Enabling Act, states received guidance in establishing statutes under which their cities could engage in the modern process of urban planning and zoning. Of importance is the provision that zoning regulations should be made “... in accordance with a comprehensive plan.” It is interesting to note that an original draft of the document read “... in accordance with a well-considered plan.” We are left to wonder about the results of hundreds of documents with that title floating around our state.

But the term “comprehensive plan” stuck, although many adopted documents in our state and others were neither comprehensive nor plans, in that they failed to effect well-considered and unique growth issues. The results were amazingly uniform, often referred to as “boilerplate” efforts. Nonetheless, plans did begin attacking socio-economic conditions along with physical goals designed to make their cities more functional and more attractive. They also embedded a respect for city planning in our state, along with the optimistic view that urban ills could be cured.

Time passed, and changes demanded a new approach to the designing of plans. Cities in our state became dependent upon the local option sales tax as their resource base. Publicly funded grant programs largely

disappeared. The Interstate Highway system shaped transportation, favoring some cities and not others. Farm employment fell to, perhaps, one-sixth of what it had been, devastating small communities dependent upon the populations provided by the farm workers and their families. Good fortune fell unevenly across the state.

As a result, the “one type plan fits all” plan no longer works for our cities. The once common phrase “Land Use, Transportation, and Community Facilities Plan” must be expanded to include specific characteristics existing within, and issues facing, our cities. Consider some of the modern approaches.

First, there is the so-called “New Urbanism” movement. It combines the various planning regulations forming the physical conditions of our city, including what is termed a “form-based” approach to zoning. Heavily influenced by landscape architects and other urban designers, it is attentive to making cities work better through physical design. It also includes an emphasis upon traditional models the designers deem worthy of copying. Many new plans in growth-oriented areas use this approach or elements of it in their current plans.

Then there are the smaller cities in our state that have basically seen the modern world pass them by. Their financial base has eroded, soon to be further depleted by the loss of revenue resulting from Internet sales. As mentioned earlier, their population base has evaporated. Factories have closed and the agricultural industry that remains is largely exempt from local taxation. Concrete slabs mark where hotels, restaurants and movie theaters once stood. Some communities no longer have a grocery.

Such towns would marvel at plans for tree-lined streets with children riding bicycles on wide sidewalks past neighborhood parks. There are consultants who will develop such plans for them. Right now, though, the city would rather plan ways for attracting a Dollar General Store.

Then there are areas that have profited from modern trends. Some grow so rapidly that, before they can adopt the newest plan, they need another one. They have their own set of challenges, including streets so clogged with traffic that businesses on alternate sides of traffic arteries are almost inaccessible for long periods of the day. Writers on the Strong Towns website write of what we might call “financial chickens coming home to roost” eventually. This will occur when future bills come due for the cost of maintaining expansion (we used to call it sprawl) long after initial benefits have dissipated.

It is hard to plan for such explosive growth. Sometimes the solution proposed calls for a “War Room” approach in which planners adjust strategy on an almost daily basis.

Some cities choose innovation and imagination as their best planning comrades. This can result in some pleasant results. The approach requires a populace (usually young and well-educated) that appreciates being on the cutting edge of urban growth policy. One caveat hovers over this approach. We, now more than ever, must be prepared to defend our plans and growth regulations as meeting the long-standing requirement that they protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community. “We thought it might be neat and newsworthy” may not suffice under the withering attack by an aggressive plaintiff’s attorney.

Unique cities—and we have some in our state—require unique planning solutions. Historic preservation may top the list of unique demands, but there are others. One Arkansas city, West Memphis, must plan around what is claimed to be the most heavily trafficked interstate exchange in America. That is the spot, in the eastern part of the city, where Interstate 55 intersects with Interstate 40, now known as “America’s Main Street.”

Another of our cities, Texarkana, shares a street with, and faces daily competition from, a far richer neighbor. These cities cannot rely simply on traditional approaches to urban planning. They must identify and plan toward success built upon the uniqueness of their community.

One of the best examples of a specific plan element converted to a regulation I’ve heard recently came during a trip to one of our most unique historic cities, Eureka Springs. When I asked about the provisions for numerous bed and breakfast facilities in the city, Mayor Berry explained the origin. It seems that the upkeep of the magnificent historic homes—homes the city is famous for—was exceeding the financial ability of many families. Allowing conversion to the alternate use, while creating enforcement challenges, has perhaps saved such historic treasures from decay and eventual demolition.

This brings us to the final point. Planning involves compromise, and compromise is becoming an increasingly distrusted concept in American life. Conflict resolution has emerged as a time-consuming element of public administration. If community-based policy formation can address the unique characteristics of our cities and create consensus toward policies, that is an additional benefit to planning as a tool for progress.



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



# The philosophy and process of placemaking

By Nathan Streett, PLA

**W**hat is Placemaking? In a nutshell, it's the deliberate act of creating great places that are enduring to the public. It is the art of making the most out of a local community's assets and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness and wellbeing. Placemaking is not a new idea, it is both a philosophy and a process, and can be completed through many different strategies. Placemaking can be used to improve any public place within a community. Public spaces such as streets, sidewalks, buildings, or parks can offer greater interaction with people to create healthier, more social, and economically sustainable communities when a successful placemaking process is implemented.

The idea of placemaking originated in the 1960s when innovative ideas about designing for people instead of cars were introduced. Placemaking pioneers such as William H. Whyte focused on the social and cultural importance of lively neighborhoods and appealing public spaces, and produced a film in 1979 titled *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. By observing and analyzing the behaviors and interactions of people using public spaces, a number of key factors were identified for those spaces that succeeded as popular gathering spots. The first item on the list of what made a successful public space was a

wealth of inviting places to sit and relax. Movable seating, benches, seat walls, and steps all provide hospitable seating options.

Near the end of his film, Whyte stated, "The street is the river of life of the city, they [people] come to these places not to escape, but to partake of it." The relationship of a desirable space and the street is another key element of its success. Whyte recommended that New York City zoning regulations limit public plaza spaces to be constructed at a maximum of three feet above or three feet below street level. This allowed for more visibility and access into the space.

The film goes on to identify tree canopies, sculptures, water features, and food vendors that all play a key role in attracting people to these spaces. The greater the number of these key features, the more people gravitated to these public spaces, dictated their length of stay, and defined the frequency of their visits. "What attracts people the most, it would appear, is other people," Whyte said.

Failed project examples in the study included places where streets faced blank walls, and places devoid of shopping, windows, and doors. Many city streets designed primarily for cars with little to no consideration for pedestrian traffic. Thus, there are many failing public spaces in such cities. Less densely populated

cities need to concentrate their public spaces to generate greater activity.

The philosophy of placemaking is to create the identity of a place that generates experiences to connect people. Identity creates a strong sense of “you are here” by distinguishing the place from others. Through the combined use of constructed features, people, function, culture, and potential, the place becomes unique and emphasizes the experience and identity of that place. The intention is to create places that are more livable.

The process of placemaking can be varied and multifaceted. Typically, placemaking involves identifying under-performing spaces that need improvement, taking inventory of their current condition, and developing a plan to convert the space into a great place. To make an under-performing place into a vital space, a transformation must occur that makes people feel welcome and comfortable. The goal is to create a place that exhibits a strong sense of community through the setting and provides a variety of things to do in one spot. One hypothetical example may be a public park that has a water feature and a playground. When the park provides a shady place for parents to sit, and a food vendor to get something to eat or drink, the park will attract people to stay longer than a few minutes and they will return more frequently. If the same park were located near a library that offered other amenities such as children’s story time, close proximity to a transit stop, bike trail, and to residential areas, the sum of the parts adds up to a very successful place. A successful place has a variety of things to do in one spot.

Public input and involvement is a strategy that creates a partnership with public agencies to achieve a community-envisioned outcome for public spaces. Encouraging the local community to take part in the planning and design of public spaces allows the public to share what it desires from a space and how to safely use it. Public input sessions create a common vision for the space to be developed, thus increasing the interaction with community.

Placemaking can give community stakeholders the opportunity to share their ideas and values about the spaces they desire to use. The team implementing the placemaking ideas must consider the relationships of traffic flow, adjacent retailers, and site activities. Proper placemaking design and implementation that engages the public will create a stronger sense of community and can create an economically sustainable space that increases local tax revenues. Creating, maintaining, and improving public places are good practices in economic development. Businesses are attracted to, and thrive in, places that are vital centers of the community.

A shortage of funding is often cited as an excuse to do nothing with public spaces. Funds purely for public

space improvements are often scarce. But, it is important to remember the value of the public space itself to find potential partners and to search for creative answers. The location, activity level, and visibility of a public space when combined with a willingness to work closely with local stakeholders and the local community can produce resources from those involved to activate and enhance the public spaces into a vibrant community resource.

Creating vibrant and lively communities where people not only can, but want to live, work, play, and interact can be a challenging task, though trained professionals can help facilitate the process. In the end, a great public space cannot be measured by its physical features alone. A great place must serve the public as a vital community resource. When people of all ages, abilities, nationalities, and socioeconomic backgrounds frequent and enjoy a place, that is when we see successful placemaking in action.



*Nathan Streett is a professional landscape architect and land development department head out of MCE’s Fayetteville office. Contact Nathan at (479) 443-2377, or email him at [nstreett@mce.us.com](mailto:nstreett@mce.us.com).*

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# Tree care before and after winter storms keeps canopy flourishing

By Alison Litchy

**B**itter winds and blustery weather tend to keep us inside. Our trees are adapted to many weather conditions. What maintenance should be done during the winter season for trees?

After an ice storm, trees are saggy with heavy limbs covered in ice. It is quite tempting to go outside and knock the ice off the trees. However, there are several factors to consider before any action is taken. First, is the tree or limb touching or near a power line? If so, contact the local utility company. Second, does a part of the tree need to be removed or is it blocking a right of way? Do not attempt to work around limbs that have been broken or partially broken and are under the additional weight of the ice. This increases the safety risk. Damaged limbs can fall at any point.

In most cases it is best to let nature take its course. Be gentle—you can do more harm than good knocking the ice off the limbs. Entire branches can be broken off if you attempt to do it with the ice still on the tree. There is no hurry. Do not risk anyone's safety when doing yard work. Clean up can be done later, when the ice is gone and it is safer to work. When maintenance crews do prune broken trees, a clean cut in the proper location is best.

Some species react to winter storm events better than others. Trees with brittle wood, poor branching angles, or included bark are at an increased chance for failure. Examples of trees that are prone to this are Bradford pear, Japanese zelkova, lacebark elm, silver maples, and birches. Trees are often planted due to the speed with



which they grow, but there is a trade-off. Typically the faster the tree grows, the weaker the wood and branch angles are.

Large limbs or entire trees over urban areas can be a potential hazard. Proper pruning before the event is a great way to help reduce the chances of tree failure during a winter event. Consider the health of the tree prior to investing money into restoration pruning after an event.

Some repairs can be done without the assistance of an arborist, while others will require professional help. Small limbs within reach are easily trimmed with a pole saw or loppers. Broken limbs should be removed back to the next major adjacent branch. Do not leave branch stubs or flush cuts. Stubs and flush cuts lead to rot and decay. Larger limbs will require the three cut method. For proper pruning techniques please visit [www.arboday.org/trees/tips/keys-to-pruning.cfm](http://www.arboday.org/trees/tips/keys-to-pruning.cfm).

Treatment of the wound is not necessary. This can lead to increased rot and decay as the paint or treatment traps water inside, promoting rot. Only prune what can be done safely. If in doubt, hire an arborist. Leave all hanging limbs or broken limbs to a professional.

When hiring an arborist after a large storm event it is important to check their credentials at [pnwisa.org/hire-an-arborist/isa-certified-arborist-directory](http://pnwisa.org/hire-an-arborist/isa-certified-arborist-directory). Also check to make sure they have insurance. Feel free to ask for a reference. See other trees they have trimmed in the past as well. Beware of “fly by night” tree service companies that come in after an event and don’t have skills, knowledge, or insurance.

Depending on the storm the tree may need restoration pruning. This is a pruning technique used when trees have been damaged in a storm or by misguided pruning efforts. Restoring a tree to its natural structure can require several prunings over many years. Removing too much of the crown at one time, especially on a tree that has just been severely damaged, will remove the resources such as water and nutrients that the tree needs to survive. After the event, the tree will have many new shoots and over time those new shoots need to be removed and a new leader selected.

Always remember: safety first. Check for certification and insurance when hiring a professional. For any further questions feel free to ask an Arkansas Forestry Commission representative or your local extension service agent.



*Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at (501) 580-9609 or email [alison.litchy@arkansas.gov](mailto:alison.litchy@arkansas.gov).*



## Support a family on \$20 a week?

**Firefighters who are injured in their firefighter duties receive only \$20 a week for a compensable injury.**

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Young participants in the McGehee Desha Alumni Community Center sell fruits and vegetables they helped grow. The proceeds will go toward their future college education.

# The Center provides workforce development in Desha County and beyond

By Sara Whisenhunt

**W**orkforce and education are at the heart of successful economic development across Arkansas. At the end of 2016, Arkansas posted an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent, the lowest unemployment rate in the state's history. There are multiple programs in the state that help support training and development of those who are preparing to enter the workforce. These programs ensure that Arkansas workers are employable and prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Desha County has two organizations that approach workforce development through different programs,

while still sharing a similar goal: economic development and empowerment of local citizens.

One of these training programs is housed in the McGehee Desha Alumni Community Center (the Center) in the heart of the Delta. The efforts of the Center are focused in Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, and Drew counties. According to its website, [www.deshaalumnicenter.org](http://www.deshaalumnicenter.org), "The Center offers multi-social services to help individuals become productive members of the community through subject tutoring, workforce training and gainful employment." The Center works not only with adults but also with middle school and high school students to help prepare them

for college through programs such as Crisis at the Core, Sustaining Health through Agriculture Project, the Center's Computer Lab, and the C.B. King Memorial Training Center.

The Center currently has 49 students enrolled in the 529 College Education Plan. These students participate in various activities to raise and save money for their college tuition. They also receive the benefit of being able to participate in activities in the community and be exposed to arts and culture by attending events such as "Disney on Ice" and "Julius Caesar" at the Greenwood Little Theatre in Greenwood, Miss. They also make a difference in their local community by visiting churches, nursing homes, and performing plays and music for the community.

Although many of these students are the first in their family to go to college, the Center wants to "provide the opportunity to change that," Ruby Emerson, a staff member at the Center, shared with us.

The students raise money for their college tuition by receiving good grades, having a positive attitude and good behavior at school. The 529 College Education Plan totals over \$3,000 in college tuition.

In 2012 the McGehee Center received a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation for \$9,450 in order to continue to provide educational programs and workforce training to local students. One of the key programs these funds supported was the McGehee Center's Bicycle Factory. The Bicycle Factory equipped and taught students how to repair bicycles. The proceeds from the bicycle sales were set aside to fund college tuition for the students. The factory closed in March 2017 and the bikes were given to children in need. Now the students are learning to grow fruits and vegetables in a "hoop house," or green house. They sell these vegetables and fruits, and the proceeds are also put into college funds. Not only does this program raise money for college tuition, it teaches children about nature and where their food comes from.

In addition to the McGehee Center, the Delta Technology Education Center (DTEC) is also an

asset in the Delta region. The concept for the Delta Technology Education Center was born after tornadoes struck Dumas in 2007. The Center opened in 2010 and consists of two main classrooms in which classes are taught by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Southeast Arkansas College, University of Arkansas at Monticello-College at Technology-McGehee, and Phillips Community College. The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services also has a local office on the campus and offers information about job placement, resume development, unemployment assistance, tax services, and more.

Dr. David Rainey, former state representative and chairman of the DTEC board, shared how DTEC has positively impacted the workforce.

"We have been able to provide a place where folks who are underemployed can get assistance and support based on their current situation," he said.

DTEC provides resources, services and skills training to citizens to help them move from unemployment to employment or up their career ladder.

"Our ultimate goal is to help people help themselves," Dr. Rainey said.

The future of DTEC depends on the needs of citizens and local businesses. Dr. Rainey shared that DTEC is prepared to modify services based on the needs of the community, and that DTEC is committed to providing quality programs and services to the delta for many years to come.

To learn more about the programs mentioned in this article, visit [www.deshaalumnnicenter.org](http://www.deshaalumnnicenter.org) or [www.delta-tech.org](http://www.delta-tech.org).



*Sara Whisenhunt is a graduate assistant for the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas.*

## IEA becomes AEDI

The Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA) will now operate under the new name Arkansas Economic Development Institute or AEDI, the longtime economic development organization has announced.

IEA, originally known as the Industrial Research Extension Center (IREC), was created by the Legislature in 1955 to provide research and technical assistance to enhance economic development and quality of place throughout our great state. Over the years, IEA became best known for providing the latest economic forecasting and analysis from its state economic forecaster, developing key economic impact and contribution studies, and the dissemination of data from the U.S. Census State Data Center, housed at the Institute. Its designation as a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration University Center for Arkansas has enabled the Institute to play a key role in many economic development endeavors across the state.

After conducting an extensive strategic assessment and planning process led by statewide external leaders and the Institute's emerging leaders, it was determined there was a need for a new direction for IEA. With the new name AEDI leadership adopted a reconstituted mission that will enable their outreach, research, and technical assistance functions to better serve constituents statewide.

AEDI has initiated a new community assessment program called ACCESS, created to help communities across Arkansas identify issues, opportunities, and challenges that must be addressed in order for them to enhance their chances of retaining and attracting jobs, and improve their overall quality of place.

In the coming months, AEDI will launch a free, comprehensive data and policy issue, web-based dashboard called Arkanstats! AEDI will also soon unveil a new website, [youraedi.com](http://youraedi.com), along with a revitalized presence on social media outlets.

## Cash boyhood home up for National Register inclusion

The boyhood home of country music icon Johnny Cash is being considered as a nominee for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, the Associated Press reported Nov. 23. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's review board will meet Dec. 6 to consider 14 Arkansas properties for nomination to the list of the nation's historic places.

The Cash home was built in 1934 in Dyess in northeastern Arkansas, about 30 miles northwest of Memphis. The house and 40 acres were provided to the Cash family as part of a government economic recovery program during the Great Depression.

The final decision on whether the property is included on the list will be made by the National Park Service.

## Jonesboro lands more than \$1 million in grants

Jonesboro has, over the course of a month, been awarded a series of grants totaling \$1.29 million, KAIT reported Nov. 22.

"We are always looking for extra ways to fund projects and ease the burden on our citizens, and our staff has done a wonderful job finding ways to supplement our sales tax dollars," Mayor Harold Perrin said.

Jonesboro Police Department received a \$330,000 Community Oriented Policing (COPS), which will allow the department to add two full-time officers to their staff. Other grants received since mid-October include a Community Development Block Grant of \$584,000 for the housing, community development, and assistance for low- and moderate-income persons; a Transportation Alternative Program grant that will provide the bicycle/walking trail connecting downtown with Arkansas State University; and a Bullet Proof Vest Partnership grant that provides JPD with 35 vests. 🏠

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# Exercise for those who do not like to exercise

The importance of getting regular exercise is so well known that there is little reason to rehash all of its benefits. Likewise, most people are aware of the physical activity recommendations for overall cardiovascular health promoted by the American Heart Association (AHA) that encourages healthy adults to do:

- At least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity at least 5 days per week for a total of 150 minutes; or
- At least 25 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity at least 3 days per week for a total of 75 minutes, or a combination of moderate and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity; and
- Moderate to high-intensity muscle-strengthening activity at least two days per week for additional health benefits.

Nevertheless, there are many people who will not reach these goals because they simply loathe exercising. This tip is particularly intended for those people who would like to exercise, but find that the traditional methods (going to the gym, running on the track, swimming laps, etc.) are unacceptable. These people should be aware that some activity is better than no activity. Some of the suggestions offered below may not meet the AHA guidelines, but could help someone to get their “feet wet” in regard to starting an exercise program.

1. **Combine a hobby with exercise.** Outdoor photography typically involves walking while you scout out those “Kodak moments.” Parks, open spaces, and zoos are great places to capture images with your camera. To keep things interesting, plot several walking routes and alternate them each day. Another option is to consider geocaching. Geocaching, known as the “worldwide scavenger hunt,” requires use of a GPS as you to travel (hopefully by foot) from cache to cache.
2. **Exercise while doing another routine activity.** How much time do most people spend reading the newspaper each day? How about combining reading the paper with exercising on a stationary bicycle? Treadmills, elliptical trainers, and stair climbers can also be fitted with a rack for holding the paper or a book.
3. **Join an exercise class.** There’s nothing like peer pressure to encourage exercise. Classes are great for people who like to exercise with others, who like music and rhythm, or who want the extra

motivation and energy that an instructor and class provide. A number of activities lend themselves well to the group format, such as Zumba, water aerobics, Pilates, and yoga.

4. **Dance your way to fitness.** Jazzercise is one of the most well known dance-oriented methods of exercising. If this seems too much like traditional exercise, consider taking a dance class instead. Swing, salsa, or even waltz can be a great way of exercising without seeming like exercise. Additionally, if there is a significant other that needs to “shake their booty,” you may be able to get them moving also.
5. **Take a walk in the woods or park.** In addition to being an excellent form of exercise, there is no better stress reducer than walking. Ideally, you would walk a fairly brisk pace to get your heart rate up, but if that seems too strenuous, just start with strolling along and see if your pace doesn’t pick up over time. If necessary add music or conversation with a friend to enhance your experience.
6. **For computer game junkies, combine your passion with exercise.** A number of exercise-oriented video games, dubbed “exergames,” are now available. Eye Toy Kinetic from PlayStation 2 uses a small camera that allows you to view yourself while participating in a number of fitness games. In addition to cardio and strength activities, Wii Fit Plus offers a variety of mini-games that challenge your balance, stability and coordination.
7. **Use competition as a motivator.** Playing tennis, basketball, or racquetball, either on a team or in pick-up games, may whet your competitive juices and maintain your interest in exercising.
8. **Trick yourself into exercising.** Activities such as yoga or Pilates, which emphasize proper breathing and stretching, can also provide cardiovascular and strength benefits. Some types of yoga cycle quickly through poses resulting in an increased heart rate with aerobic benefit. Others require tremendous strength and concentration. One of the main benefits of Pilates is to strengthen the core muscles of the lower back and abdomen, and is particularly helpful for people with chronic back pain. But Pilates, particularly when participating in a “mat class,” can also raise the heart rate, providing cardiovascular benefits.

9. **Walk the dog.** Most dogs like (and need) to walk regularly. Let your dog provide the motivation to get you exercising. That way, both of you will get a good workout.

You don't have to be a marathoner or spend hours in the gym to reap the benefits of exercise. You just need to figure out some way of getting your body moving each day. Once you start, you're likely to find that you want to do more and more challenging workouts. Someday you may even discover that you actually enjoy exercising!

*This article appeared originally on eDocAmerica's Weekly Health Tip blog (weeklyhealthtip.blogspot.com) and is reprinted with permission.*



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



The deadline for enrollment in the **Arkansas Municipal League 2018 Municipal Officials and Department Heads Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan** is **Dec. 31, 2017.**

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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	\$4.7222	\$0.1655	\$0.3450	\$1.0778	\$1.0886
April	\$5.5340	\$5.3517	\$0.2342	\$0.3611	\$1.0777	\$1.0886
May	\$5.4590	\$5.4824	\$0.0745	\$0.2602	\$1.0773	\$1.0864
June	\$5.2768	\$5.5686	\$0.0968	\$0.1858	\$1.0778	\$1.0881
July	\$5.6734	\$5.5610	\$0.0987	\$0.2628	\$2.8803	\$2.9480
August	\$5.0337	\$5.5557	\$0.1292	\$0.2711	\$1.2006	\$0.9499
September	\$5.3389	\$5.4801	\$0.1482	\$0.2230	\$1.0906	\$1.0881
October	\$5.5217	\$5.5047	\$0.2562	\$0.2508	\$1.0896	\$1.0888
November	\$5.3393	\$5.1475	\$0.2306	\$0.24	\$1.0881	\$1.0875
December	\$4.9184		\$0.2078		\$1.0884	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$62.9483</b>	<b>\$59.2393</b>	<b>\$2.0238</b>	<b>\$2.8911</b>	<b>\$15.9639</b>	<b>\$14.7497</b>

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	\$9,482,577.19	\$10,065,525.00	\$433,179.54	\$574,575.98	* \$4,032,277.00	*\$4,056,819.92
February	\$9,804,689.33	\$10,462,690.50	\$287,481.18	\$357,751.63	\$2,031,997.39	\$2,056,417.62
March	\$8,722,769.73	\$8,921,686.11	\$312,010.76	\$651,783.55	\$2,032,596.84	\$2,056,718.50
April	\$10,436,025.60	\$10,110,987.00	\$441,661.71	\$682,243.26	\$2,032,297.66	\$2,056,718.50
May	\$10,294,480.80	\$10,363,642.30	\$140,536.93	\$491,893.79	\$2,031,495.51	\$2,053,761.87
June	\$9,950,873.55	\$10,526,632.40	\$182,493.78	\$351,199.83	\$2,032,597.66	2,056,937.75
July	\$10,698,830.40	\$10,512,280.90	\$186,206.19	\$496,864.92	** \$5,431,589.73	*** \$5,572,710.46
August	\$9,492,433.07	\$10,502,217.40	\$243,594.47	\$512,555.17	\$2,264,157.25	\$1,795,649.71
September	\$10,068,067.87	\$10,359,333.50	\$279,548.09	\$421,562.72	\$2,056,681.01	\$2,056,885.50
October	\$10,421,889.30	\$10,405,765.80	\$483,529.74	\$474,027.01	\$2,056,531.47	\$2,058,156.39
November	\$10,087,659.40	\$9,730,523.28	\$435,692.77	\$449,423.80	\$2,055,823.30	\$2,055,750.30
December	\$9,292,326.92		\$392,523.22		\$2,056,318.09	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$118,752,623.16</b>	<b>\$111,961,284.19</b>	<b>\$3,818,458.38</b>	<b>\$5,463,881.66</b>	<b>\$30,114,362.91</b>	<b>\$27,876,526.52</b>

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

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

\*\*\* Includes \$3,515,747.46 supplemental for July 2017



# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



## 2017 Elections

- NEWTON Co., Feb. 14**  
Failed. 1%
- BLYTHEVILLE, May 9**  
Passed. .5%
- BULL SHOALS, May 9**  
Passed. 1%
- GREENLAND, June 12**  
Passed. 1%
- PINE BLUFF, June 12**  
Passed. 5/8%
- TONTITOWN, July 11**  
Passed. 0.75%
- NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 8**  
Passed. 1%
- BAXTER Co., Sept. 12**  
Passed. 1%
- CENTERTON, Sept. 12**  
Passed. 1%
- MOUNTAIN HOME, Sept. 12**  
Passed. .375%
- ALEXANDER, Nov. 14**  
Passed. 1%
- CONWAY, Nov. 14**  
Passed. 3/8%
- LONOKE, Nov. 14**  
Passed. 1.25%
- Passed. .25%**

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2017 with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$51,749,675	\$49,037,009	\$46,139,133	\$43,720,229	\$97,888,807	\$92,757,238	\$15,903	\$15,812
February	\$60,007,416	\$59,477,239	\$52,583,090	\$51,693,904	\$112,590,506	\$111,171,143	\$17,386	\$20,455
March	\$48,225,282	\$45,484,389	\$42,723,485	\$41,503,958	\$90,948,767	\$86,988,347	\$18,863	\$17,357
April	\$50,349,075	\$51,278,433	\$44,591,728	\$46,543,122	\$94,940,803	\$97,821,554	\$15,747	\$19,032
May	\$55,441,606	\$51,716,750	\$48,861,910	\$46,509,945	\$104,303,516	\$98,226,695	\$17,059	\$16,799
June	\$50,977,784	\$48,045,270	\$45,261,893	\$42,836,823	\$96,239,677	\$90,882,093	\$17,534	\$17,947
July	\$55,472,881	\$52,527,961	\$49,248,601	\$47,321,806	\$104,721,482	\$99,849,766	\$18,995	\$17,750
August	\$54,840,523	\$52,254,925	\$49,357,901	\$47,594,177	\$104,198,425	\$99,849,102	\$15,982	\$17,169
September	\$53,692,981	\$53,746,167	\$48,991,616	\$49,430,573	\$102,684,597	\$103,176,740	\$45,866	\$18,913
October	\$53,796,257	\$52,105,594	\$49,299,660	\$47,384,899	\$103,095,917	\$99,490,493	\$79,279	\$17,666
November	\$53,815,854	\$53,632,182	\$49,290,527	\$48,831,434	\$103,106,380	\$102,463,617	\$78,491	\$17,523
December		\$51,969,068		\$46,917,820		\$98,886,888		\$17,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$588,369,333</b>	<b>\$621,274,986</b>	<b>\$526,349,544</b>	<b>\$560,288,690</b>	<b>\$1,114,718,877</b>	<b>\$1,181,563,676</b>	<b>\$341,106</b>	<b>\$213,621</b>
Averages	\$53,488,121	\$51,772,916	\$47,849,959	\$46,690,724	\$101,338,080	\$98,463,640	\$31,010	\$17,802

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

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Franklin	Garfield	Garland	Gassville	Gentry	Gilbert	Gillett	Gillham	Gilmore	Glenwood	Gosnell	Gould	Grady	Gravette	Green Forest	Greenbrier	Greenland	Greenwood	Greers Ferry	Guion	Gum Springs	Curdon	Guy	Hackett	Hamburg	Hardy	Harrisburg	Harrison	Hartford	Haskell	Hatfield	Havana	Hazen	Heber Springs	Helena-West Helena	Hermitage	Higginson	Highfill	Highland	Holly Grove	Hope	Horatio	Horseshoe Bend	Hot Springs	Hoxie	Hughes	Humphrey	Huntington	Huntsville	Imboden	Jacksonville	Jasper	Jennette	Johnson	Joiner	Jonesboro	Judsonia	Junction City	Keiser	Keo	Kibler	Kingsland	Lake City	Lake Village	Lakeview	Lamar	Lead Hill	Lepanto	Leslie	Lewisville	Lincoln	Little Rock	Little Rock	Lockesburg	Lonoke	Lowell	Luxora	Madison	Magazine	Magnolia	Malvern	Mammoth Spring	Manila	Mansfield	Marianna	Marion	Marked Tree	Marmaduke	Marshall	Marvell	Maumelle	Mayflower	Maynard	McCrony	McGehee	McRae	Melbourne	Mena	Menifee	Mineral Springs	Monette	Monticello	Moorefield	Moro	Morrison	Mount Ida	Mountain Home	Mountain View	Mountainburg	Mulberry	Murfreesboro	Nashville	Newport	Norfork	Norman	North Little Rock	Oak Grove	Oak Grove Heights	Ola	Oppelo	Osceola	Oxford	Ozark	Palestine	Pangburn	Paragould	Paris	Patmos	Patterson	Pea Ridge	Perla	Perryville	Piggott	Pine Bluff	Pineville	Plainview	Pleasant Plains	Plumerville	Pocahontas	Portia	Portland	Pottsville	Prairie Grove	Prescott	Pyatt	Quitman	Ravenden	Rector	Redfield	Rison	Rockport	Roe	Rogers	Rose Bud	Rudy	Russellville	Salem	Salesville	Searcy	Shannon Hills	Sheridan	Sherill	Sherwood	Shirley	Siloam Springs	Sparkman	Springdale	Springtown	St. Charles	Stamps	Star City	Stephens	Strong	Stuttgart	Sulphur Springs	Sunmit	Sunset	Swifton	Taylor	Texarkana	Texarkana Special	Thornton	Totitown	Trumann	Tuckerman	Turrell	Tyrone	Van Buren	Vandervoort	Vilonia	Viola	Wabbaseka	Waldenburg	Waldron	Walnut Ridge	Ward	Warren	Washington	Weiner	West Fork	West Memphis	Western Grove	Wheatley	White Hall	Wickes	Widener	Wiederkehr Village	Wilmot	Wilson	Wilton	Wynne	Yellville	Crosssett	Fountain Hill	Hamburg	Montrose	Parkdale	Portland	Wilmot	Baxter County	Big Flat	Briarcliff	Cotter	Gassville	Lakeview	Mountain Home	Norfork	Salesville	Benton County	Avoca	Bella Vista	Bentonville	Bethel Heights	Cave Springs	Centerton	Decatur	Elm Springs	Garfield	Gateway	Gentry	Gravette	Highfill	Little Rock	Lowell	Pea Ridge	Rogers	Siloam Springs	Springdale	Springtown	Sulphur Springs	Boone County	Alpena	Bellefonte	Bergman	Diamond City	Everton	Harrison	Lead Hill	Omaha	South Lead Hill	Valley Springs	Zinc	Bradley County	Banks	Hermitage	Warren	Calhoun County	Hampton	Harrell	Thornton	Tinsman	Carroll County	Beaver	Blue Eye	Chicot County	Dermott	Eudora	Lake Village	Clark County	Clay County	Corning	Datto	Greenway	Knobel	McDougal	Nimmons	Peach Orchard	Piggott	Pollard	Rector	St. Francis	Success	Cleburne County	Concord	Fairfield Bay	Greers Ferry	Heber Springs	Higden	Quitman	Cleveland County	Kingsland	Rison	Columbia County	Emerson	Magnolia	McNeil	Taylor	Waldo	Conway County	Menifee	Morrilton	Oppelo	Plumerville	Craighead County	Bay	Black Oak	Bono	Brookland	Caraway	Cash
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Egypt	1,970.41	1,894.15	Cushman	6,020.66	6,043.29	Birdsong	486.05	501.41	Mansfield	7,129.35	7,068.37
Jonesboro	1,183,356.59	1,137,555.56	Magness	2,690.65	2,700.76	Blytheville	185,172.05	191,025.26	Waldron	28,517.40	28,273.49
Lake City	36,628.58	35,210.90	Moorefield	1,824.85	1,831.71	Burdette	2,264.27	2,335.84	Searcy County	68,183.49	38,659.37
Monette	26,407.06	25,384.97	Newark	15,664.38	15,723.25	Dell	2,643.62	2,727.19	Big Flat	6.67	6.31
Crawford County	724,062.79	682,700.86	Oil Trough	3,463.21	3,476.23	Dyess	4,860.47	5,014.11	Gilbert	186.74	176.70
Alma	52,693.94	49,683.81	Pleasant Plains	4,648.70	4,667.17	Etowah	4,161.04	4,292.57	Leslie	2,941.16	2,783.02
Cedarville	13,555.15	12,780.81	Southside	51,961.53	52,156.80	Gosnell	42,060.85	43,390.37	Marshall	9,036.89	8,551.00
Chester	1,457.78	1,457.78	Sulphur Rock	6,073.96	6,096.76	Joiner	6,828.37	7,044.21	Pindall	746.96	706.80
Dyer	8,518.16	8,031.56	Izard County	47,880.53	48,878.83	Keiser	8,997.80	9,282.21	St. Joe	880.34	833.02
Kibler	9,344.69	8,810.88	Jackson County	294,493.25	286,153.45	Leachville	23,626.63	24,373.45	Sebastian County	812,068.33	812,246.40
Mountainburg	6,135.80	5,875.29	Amagon	1,056.26	1,026.34	Luxora	13,964.96	14,406.39	Barling	74,219.15	74,235.43
Mulberry	16,093.09	15,173.78	Beedeville	1,153.26	1,120.60	Manila	39,617.86	40,871.09	Bonanza	9,179.61	9,181.62
Rudy	593.16	559.28	Campbell Station	2,748.42	2,670.59	Marie	995.80	1,027.28	Central City	8,014.20	8,015.96
Van Buren	221,617.94	208,958.07	Diaz	14,205.56	13,803.27	Osceola	91,957.72	94,864.47	Fort Smith	1,376,287.15	1,376,588.94
Crittenden County	1,326,916.64	1,364,681.14	Grubbs	4,042.35	4,042.54	Victoria	438.63	452.49	Greenwood	142,914.58	142,945.91
Anthonyville	1,077.23	1,107.89	Jacksonport	2,284.96	2,220.25	Wilson	10,704.86	11,043.26	Hackett	12,963.21	12,966.05
Clarkedale	2,482.32	2,552.97	Newport	84,920.80	82,515.92	Monroe County	NA	NA	Hartford	10,249.24	10,259.48
Crawfordsville	3,204.93	3,296.15	Swifton	8,600.94	8,357.37	Montgomery County	45,091.20	49,944.86	Huntington	10,137.48	10,131.71
Earle	16,151.79	16,611.48	Tuckerman	20,068.86	19,500.53	Black Springs	582.77	645.50	Lavaca	36,542.84	36,550.85
Edmondson	2,857.01	2,938.32	Tupelo	1,940.06	1,885.12	Glenwood	247.24	273.85	Mansfield	11,542.36	11,544.89
Gilmore	1,583.73	1,628.80	Weldon	808.36	785.46	Mount Ida	6,333.96	7,015.75	Midland	5,188.48	5,189.61
Horseshoe Lake	1,953.74	2,009.34	Jefferson County	704,571.00	734,561.89	Norman	2,225.13	2,464.64	Sevier County	301,529.00	292,001.31
Jennette	692.51	712.22	Alzheimer	10,151.54	10,583.65	Oden	1,365.68	1,512.69	Ben Lomond	1,373.57	1,330.17
Jericho	796.22	818.88	Humphrey	3,177.51	3,312.77	Nevada County	118,295.37	116,218.42	DeQueen	62,464.20	60,490.46
Marion	82,598.96	84,949.75	Pine Bluff	506,369.74	527,923.96	Bluff City	1,089.07	1,069.94	Gilham	1,515.66	1,467.77
Sunset	1,192.31	1,226.25	Redfield	13,380.63	13,950.19	Bodcaw	1,212.02	1,190.74	Horatio	9,889.69	9,577.20
Turrell	3,703.40	3,808.80	Sherrill	866.59	903.48	Cale	693.84	681.66	Lockesburg	7,000.46	6,779.26
West Memphis	175,602.25	180,599.94	Wabbaseka	2,630.73	2,742.71	Emmet	4,171.82	4,098.58	Sharp County	82,231.52	84,896.71
Cross County	272,124.50	291,160.70	White Hall	57,009.55	59,436.22	Prescott	28,948.07	28,439.82	Ash Flat	9,836.07	10,154.86
Cherry Valley	6,989.66	7,478.62	Johnson County	118,833.38	110,695.05	Rosston	2,292.31	2,252.06	Cave City	17,484.11	18,050.78
Hickory Ridge	2,920.41	3,124.71	Clarksville	87,287.14	81,309.26	Willisville	1,334.98	1,311.55	Cherokee Village	38,922.72	40,184.23
Parkin	11,864.18	12,694.12	Coal Hill	9,624.60	8,965.46	Newton County	54,594.42	55,359.68	Evening Shade	4,335.90	4,476.43
Wynne	89,834.91	96,119.22	Hartman	4,935.94	4,597.90	Jasper	2,184.71	2,215.34	Hardy	7,326.87	7,564.33
Dallas County	134,277.55	165,035.87	Knoxville	6,952.16	6,476.04	Western Grove	1,800.28	1,825.51	Highland	10,488.46	10,828.40
Desha County	108,004.83	114,124.91	Lamar	15,264.30	14,218.93	Ouachita County	569,332.99	604,050.46	Horseshoe Bend	80.29	82.90
Arkansas	4,416.89	4,416.89	Lafayette County	74,489.14	82,023.14	Bearden	8,738.23	9,271.08	Sidney	1,816.66	1,875.54
Dumas	53,745.45	56,790.93	Bradley	3,510.57	3,865.63	Camden	110,204.86	116,925.07	Williford	752.75	777.16
McGehee	48,183.61	50,913.92	Buckner	1,537.27	1,692.75	Chidester	2,614.23	2,773.65	St. Francis County	293,097.77	149,602.10
Mitchellville	4,111.42	4,344.40	Lewisville	7,155.30	7,879.00	East Camden	8,421.63	8,935.17	Caldwell	10,495.14	9,843.40
Reed	1,964.35	2,075.66	Stamps	9,463.99	10,421.21	Louann	1,483.51	1,573.97	Cott	7,148.04	6,704.16
Tillar	239.83	253.42	Lawrence County	316,858.22	332,149.03	Stephens	8,059.81	8,551.28	Forrest City	290,667.82	272,618.12
Watson	2,409.76	2,546.30	Alicia	854.96	895.67	Perry County	125,558.68	110,057.21	Hughes	27,249.52	25,557.40
Drew County	398,305.17	415,694.25	Black Rock	4,564.37	4,781.72	Adona	1,118.93	980.79	Madison	14,541.90	13,638.88
Jerome	496.97	518.67	Hoxie	19,167.59	20,080.34	Bigelow	1,686.43	1,478.22	Palestine	12,877.80	12,078.14
Monticello	120,636.17	125,902.87	Imboden	4,667.79	4,890.07	Casa	915.49	802.46	Wheatley	6,713.10	6,296.24
Tillar	2,599.53	2,713.02	Lynn	1,985.71	2,080.27	Fourche	331.93	290.95	Wiener	5,162.48	4,841.88
Wilmar	6,511.58	6,795.86	Minturn	751.54	787.32	Houston	926.20	811.85	Stone County	91,539.40	90,411.50
Winchester	2,128.05	2,220.94	Portia	3,013.04	3,156.51	Perry	1,445.51	1,267.05	Fifty Six	1,671.73	1,651.13
Faulkner County	740,833.13	716,632.85	Powhatan	496.43	520.07	Perryville	7,816.47	6,851.45	Mountain View	26,554.45	26,227.25
Enola	2,255.83	2,182.14	Ravenden	3,240.56	3,394.88	Phillips County	110,974.14	120,753.96	Union County	567,916.80	447,938.70
Holland	3,717.45	3,596.01	Sedgwick	1,048.01	1,097.92	Elaine	12,422.65	13,517.41	Calion	16,556.61	13,058.85
Mount Vernon	967.74	963.13	Smithville	537.80	563.41	Helena-West Helena	196,849.30	214,196.99	El Dorado	704,960.99	556,030.90
Twin Groves	2,235.81	2,162.77	Strawberry	2,082.23	2,181.39	Lake View	8,652.89	9,415.43	Felsenthal	4,056.91	3,199.84
Wooster	5,739.68	5,552.19	Walnut Ridge	36,804.53	35,321.16	Lexa	5,586.28	6,078.58	Huttig	22,692.70	17,898.64
Franklin County	162,957.25	159,221.40	Lee County	33,266.31	40,301.00	Marvell	23,165.52	25,207.01	Junction City	20,242.03	15,965.69
Altus	6,384.37	6,238.01	Aubrey	1,030.86	1,248.85	Pike County	166,769.47	163,175.80	Norphlet	25,539.96	20,144.39
Branch	3,091.11	3,020.25	Haynes	909.58	1,101.92	Antoine	1,069.50	1,046.46	Smackover	67,192.60	52,997.48
Charleston	21,241.93	20,754.95	LaGrange	539.68	653.81	Daisy	1,051.22	1,028.57	Strong	19,117.90	15,079.05
Denning	3,967.07	3,876.12	Marianna	24,952.77	30,229.42	Delight	2,550.36	2,495.40	Van Buren County	271,899.37	275,266.05
Ozark	31,029.05	30,317.70	Moro	1,309.79	1,586.77	Glenwood	19,982.36	19,551.76	Clinton	24,152.74	24,152.74
Wiederkehr Village	320.06	312.72	Rondo	1,200.64	1,454.53	Murfreesboro	15,000.48	14,677.24	Damascus	2,320.59	2,349.33
Fulton County	108,673.75	116,354.42	Lincoln County	54,609.68	61,329.01	Poinsett County	126,440.42	136,172.87	Fairfield Bay	20,003.52	20,251.21
Ash Flat	429.94	460.33	Gould	4,322.71	4,854.58	Fisher	1,891.13	2,036.69	Shirley	2,701.17	2,734.62
Cherokee Village	3,342.60	3,578.84	Grady	2,318.87	2,604.19	Harrisburg	19,521.85	21,024.49	Washington County	1,469,690.45	1,370,925.88
Hardy	177.04	189.55	Star City	11,744.13	13,189.16	Lepanto	16,053.37	17,289.04	Elkins	44,165.98	41,197.98
Horseshoe Bend	71.66	76.72	Little River County	213,297.70	196,525.96	Marked Tree	21,760.67	23,435.64	Elm Springs	29,288.31	27,320.11
Mammoth Spring	4,118.18	4,409.24	Ashdown	43,507.49	40,086.47	Trumann	61,872.89	66,635.41	Farmington	99,640.31	92,944.39
Salem	6,891.73	7,378.81	Foreman	9,313.16	8,580.86	Tyrnza	6,462.05	6,959.45	Fayetteville	1,227,240.42	1,144,768.71
Viola	1,420.49	1,520.89	Ogden	1,658.13	1,527.75	Waldenburg	517.30	557.12	Goshen	17,863.20	16,662.78
Garland County	2,012,463.89	2,039,463.89	Wilton	3,445.23	3,174.33	Weiner	6,071.95	6,539.34	Greenland	21,582.62	20,132.25
Fountain Lake	6,832.45	6,923.80	Winthrop	1,768.67	1,629.59	Polk County	250,527.83	243,920.10	Johnson	55,941.35	52,182.04
Hot Springs	204,874.55	207,613.75	Logan County	289,093.30	99,763.25	Cove	7,514.86	7,316.64	Lincoln	37,511.06	34,990.28
Lonsdale	1,276.84	1,293.91	Blue Mountain	1,026.03	982.97	Graniss	10,898.50	10,611.06	Prairie Grove	73,821.23	68,860.37
Mountain Pine	10,459.22	10,599.06	Booneville	33,015.12	31,629.35	Hatfield	8,124.70	7,910.40	Springdale	1,070,708.05	998,755.47
Grant County	194,576.28	192,385.76	Caulksville	1,762.46	1,688.48	Metta	112,860.48	109,883.76	Tontitown	41,030.33	38,273.05
Greene County	520,779.75	505,955.34	Magazine	7,008.47	6,714.30	Vandervoort	1,711.50	1,666.36	West Fork	38,645.23	36,048.23
Delaplaine	1,343.34	1,305.10	Morrison Bluff	529.57	507.34	Wickes	14,832.96	14,441.76	Winslow	6,521.49	6,083.25
Lafe	5,303.86	5,152.88	Paris	29,225.41	27,998.71	Pope County	360,924.22	361,423.89	White County	1,198,615.18	885,623.42
Marmaduke	12,865.91	12,499.67	Ratcliff	1,671.44	1,601.29	Atkins	43,345.97	43,405.98	Bald Knob	37,053.83	34,464.64
Oak Grove Heights	10,295.04	10,001.99	Scranton	1,853.48	1,775.68	Dover	19,804.63	19,832.04	Beebe	93,561.87	87,021.10
Paragould	302,400.93	293,792.85	Subiaco	4,733.00	4,534.34	Hector	6,467.40	6,476.36	Bradford	9,707.92	9,029.57
Hempstead County	380,204.81	347,683.62	Lonoke County	279,591.11	279,817.34	London	14,932.52	14,953.19	Garner	3,632.48	3,378.65
Blevins	3,550.05	3,246.39	Allport	1,130.55	1,131.47	Pottsville	40,787.76	40,844.22	Georgetown	1,586.01	1,475.19
Emmet	484.61	443.16	Austin	20,035.40	20,051.61	Russellville	401,266.43	401,821.96	Griffithville	2,877.84	2,676.75
Fulton	2,265.27	2,071.51	Cabot	233,739.74	233,928.87	Prairie County	86,073.22	90,662.06	Higginson	7,942.85	7,387.83
Hope	113,770.68	104,039.19	Carlisle	21,765.64	21,783.25	Biscoe	3,576.74	3,767.42	Judsonia	25,823.84	24,019.37
McCaskill	1,081.92	989.38	Coy	943.77	944.53	Des Arc	16,918.06	17,820.02	Kennett	21,078.60	19,605.70
McNab	766.36	700.81	England	27,772.32	27,794.80						

# MUNICIPAL MART

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

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**—Fort Smith seeks a Deputy Director of Police Administrative Services. The Fort Smith Police Department is a progressive law enforcement agency made up of 151 sworn officers and 55 non-sworn staff members. The Deputy Director of Police Administrative Services conducts managerial and administrative work functions associated with coordinating research, planning, and change management activities for the Police Department. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree is strongly preferred. Three years of previous experience and/or training that includes law enforcement administration, grant writing and administration, alternative funding management, planning, tactical operations, budgetary oversight, and research work is required. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources at [GaryHolland@governmentresource.com](mailto:GaryHolland@governmentresource.com), (405) 269-3445.

**DIRECTOR OF SANITATION**—Fort Smith seeks a Director of Sanitation. The purpose of the Fort Smith Department of Sanitation is to lead the community in a commitment to shared environmental responsibility. The Director of Sanitation is responsible for all aspects of the Sanitation Department including direction for the following divisions: residential collection, commercial/industrial collection, landfill, and fleet/grounds maintenance. A bachelor's degree is required. Knowledge of the operations of a sanitation department and/or sanitary landfill is preferred. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources at [GaryHolland@governmentresource.com](mailto:GaryHolland@governmentresource.com), (405) 269-3445.

**FIREFIGHTER**—The Osceola Fire Department is accepting resumes for a certified Firefighter (FF2). Salary is \$13.49/hr. Pre-employment physical, drug test and background check required. The City of Osceola maintains a residency policy for all city employees. For consideration please contact City of Osceola Human Resources Director Jane Stanford at (870) 563-5245 Ext. 24, or email [janes@osceolalightandpower.com](mailto:janes@osceolalightandpower.com). EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**—Lyons, Kan. (pop. 3,725; \$12.1 million budget; 33 FTE's), known as "an unexpected pleasure" is the county seat of Rice County. A dynamic, community located in the heart of Kansas, with a prosperous business climate and first-rate public schools plus access to higher education. The city operates gas, water, and wastewater utilities, along with a growing municipal airport. The City Administrator reports to a progressive nine-member council, and oversees all departments. For more information about the community, visit <http://www.lyonsks.org>. Applicants should have a Master's in Public Admin. or related field and at least five years of management experience. The successful candidate will have a history of sound decision-making ability, excellent administrative and organizational skills and experience facilitating economic development. Candidates must also display the communication skills and openness needed to collaborate with the city council and staff. Salary \$60,000-70,000 DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Lyons@lkm.org or LEAPS-Lyons, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Open until filled. Application review will begin July 31. EOE.

**CITY ENGINEER**—The City of Sherwood seeks applicants for the position of City Engineer. Requires Baccalaureate Degree in the engineering field, or equivalent technical degree required, BSCE desired. A minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible experience in managing a professional engineering function is desired. Wastewater management experience and State Wastewater Class II License is desired. Must possess a valid Arkansas Class D DL before employment and maintain licensure for the duration of employment. Must possess a Professional Engineer's License within a reasonable period of time after initial employment. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with employees, consultants, other governmental agency representatives, City officials and the general public. All positions with the City of Sherwood are subject to a pre-employment background check. Some positions are subject to pre-employment and random drug screening. All positions are subject to reasonable suspicion drug screening. The City is committed to providing our employees with a competitive salary and benefit program. We offer our full-time employees a variety of benefit plans. All employees are required to participate in the City of Sherwood 457(b) Retirement Plan, contribute 3% of their base salary. To be considered for this position, the City requires a completed application. Resumes are not considered as formal application. Applications may be downloaded at [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net) or obtained at the Human Resources Office, 2199 E. Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood. Applications can be mailed to the Human Resources, P.O. Box 6256, Sherwood, Arkansas 72124 or faxed to 501-392-0087. Open until filled.

**LEAD MECHANIC**—The City of Hope is currently hiring for the position of Lead Mechanic. The position will be under broad supervision of the Public Works Director, and will be responsible for light repair and maintenance of the City of Hope vehicles and equipment. There are approximately 100 cars, trucks, tractors, mowers, dump trucks, trailers as well as equipment. Qualifications for this position are as follows: HS diploma or GED, vocational training in light duty automotive repair. Must have tools. The salary range is \$35,000-\$40,000 DOE. Applications available at City Hall, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F. Applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 667, Hope, AR 71802-0667. EOE.

**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**—The City of Mena is accepting applications for a Parks and Recreation Director. Degree in Parks and Recreation Administration or related field preferred and at least 5 years previous experience in parks and recreation management is desired. Equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered. Experience and related skills in parks facility, grounds maintenance (including baseball/softball and soccer field preparation), business management techniques, budgeting, grant writing, and an understanding of parks and recreation principals and practices is desired. Paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave. Salary negotiable DOE and qualifications. A comprehensive background investigation will be conducted. Applications with resumes and copies of certifications will be accepted at the Arkansas Employment Security Department, University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Campus, 1100 College Drive, Mena, AR 71953. Open until filled. Questions may be addressed to Becky Horton, (479) 394-4585. EOE.


**POLICE CHIEF**—The City of Bradley is now accepting applications for a full time police chief. Must be certified and meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Must be willing to relocate within 5 miles of Bradley city limits. Send Resume to, or applications are available at: City of Bradley City Hall, P.O. Box 729, 410 Pullman Street, Bradley, AR 71826. Office hours are 8-4 Mon-Fri. (870) 894-3464. EOE.

**POLICE CHIEF**—The City of Plainview (Yell County) is seeking a full-time, certified police chief. Salary is negotiable DOE. Includes paid vacation, sick leave and personal leave. Please submit resumes either by mail or in person to the City of Plainview, Post Office Box 117, Plainview AR 72857 by Jan. 12.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**—Republic, Mo., seeks a Public Information Officer. Coordinates and manages the city's public information including marketing efforts, dissemination of information to the public and media concerning City events and issues, and the implementation of strategic communication campaigns and programs. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in journalism, communications or related field. Must have at least two years of related and responsible work experience. Municipal experience is preferred, but not required. Knowledge, skills and abilities: principles, techniques and objectives of public relations as it applies within municipal government organization and able; knowledge of accurate grammar, spelling, punctuation, and standard English usage required; must be able to read, understand, and interpret a variety of information including city ordinances; must maintain a high level of confidentiality; must be able to make sound decisions within established guidelines and procedures; must be able to effectively and efficiently coordinate office activity including adapting to a fast paced, multi-task environment; must be able to independently plan, prioritize and organize work in an efficient manner; must be able to perform effectively as a member of a team in carrying out the city's mission, vision and values. Must possess valid Missouri DL. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay Range: Grade 7, \$43,534.40–\$57,824.00. Application and complete job description available at [www.republicmo.com](http://www.republicmo.com). Application must be completed and submitted online or to City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled.

**REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS**—The City of Johnson invites qualified firms to submit a Statement of Qualifications for professional engineering services to design parks, street and drainage projects in the City of Johnson. Professional services include providing the engineering and surveying expertise to design and prepare plans, specifications, and estimates approved by the city and other regulatory agencies for one or more projects; public coordination and meetings; preparation of all preliminary and final design plans and specifications to include streets, trails, parks, drainage, bridges, utility locations, and environmental clearance, and provide coordination with utilities and other regulatory entities to secure approval of designs; and preparation of bid package, bid tabulation, periodic inspection of construction, review of shop drawings and contractor estimates for payment, and preparation of as-built drawings. The SOQ's will be used for selection of engineers for projects that are planned for design initiation in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Three copies of the SOQ and one electronic copy must be received no later than 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018. SOQs must be addressed as follows: Mayor Chris Keeney, City of Johnson, P.O. Box 563, Johnson, AR 72741. Any inquiries relating to this Request for Qualifications may be directed to Chris Keeney at the above address, by phone at (479) 521-7291, or by email at [ckeeneey@cityofjohnson.com](mailto:ckeeneey@cityofjohnson.com).

**STREET SUPERINTENDENT**—Republic, Mo., seeks a Street Superintendent. Plans, supervises, directs, and coordinates the reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of streets, alleys and storm water drainage systems. Education and experience: Must be HS graduate or equivalent with preferably an Associate's Degree in Construction Management, Public Works or a related field. Shall have a minimum of 7 years progressive maintenance experience in an organized street or road department, including 5 years at the supervisory level. Experience may be substituted for the education requirement on a year-for-year basis. Must possess a Class "B" CDL. Air brake endorsement is required. Must possess or obtain within probationary employment period, the following National Incident Management Training Certifications: ICS-100.PW, IS-200, FEMA IS-700. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay range: Grade 8, \$47,902.40–\$63,564.80. Application and complete job description available at [www.republicmo.com](http://www.republicmo.com). Application must be completed and submitted online or to City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled.

**FOR SALE**—The Town of Damascus has for sale a 2007 Chevy Impala Police Cruiser. Full police package—everything except radios. 101K miles. \$2500.00 to another police agency only. May be seen at the Damascus Police Dept. Call (501) 654-4911 or (501) 335-7321. 

## Obituaries

**LESLIE "LES" M. BLACK JR.**, 79, a Crossett City Council member from 1974 to 1982 and mayor from 1983 to 1995, died Oct. 28.

**GARNETT THOMAS EISELE**, 94, a former assistant U.S. Attorney, delegate to Arkansas's Seventh Constitutional Convention, and, for 41 years, a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas until his 2011 retirement, died Nov. 26.

**JOHN LEWELLEN**, 87, former Little Rock city director, member of the Pulaski County Quorum Court, and a state representative from 1999 to 2005, died Nov. 25.

**GREG STANDRIDGE**, 50, a state senator from the Russellville area serving District 16, died Nov. 16.

# MHBF Tips: 2018 Municipal Health Benefit Fund changes

**A** new plan year is fast approaching for entities that have health coverage through the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF). The 2018 plan year brings many exciting changes.

MHBF is pleased to welcome Dwight Davis, Pharm.D; Geri Beth Bemberg, Pharm.D; and the entire Evidence Based Prescription Drug Program (EBRx) team through the UAMS College of Pharmacy as its prescription benefit plan consultant. EBRx/UAMS developed the evidence-based prescription program that the MHBF follows today, and has been an integral partner in MHBF's prescription benefit program for many years. We foresee great things in the future as EBRx assumes a key role in the prescription benefit plan.

Also new for 2018 is a telemedicine benefit being offered through eDoc America. Telemedicine offers MHBF members access to a physician visit 24-hours per day, seven days a week, from the comfort of their office, home, or on the road. Members will be able to call a toll-free number to set up a telemedicine visit. During this call, the member will go through a patient intake process where medical information will be gathered along with a \$20 copayment. Once this process is complete, the member will receive an email with instructions on how to log in to their patient/member portal and access a video conference with a physician. Once the consultation is complete, prescriptions will be arranged per doctor's orders. Telemedicine does not take the place of a primary care physician, but is a great solution when illness strikes during times that your physician's office is closed, you are out of town, or cannot get away from the office to go to the doctor. Please note: Only non-narcotic medications will be prescribed. More information regarding telemedicine will be provided soon.

MHBF's fund booklet has undergone a complete legal review. An electronic version can be obtained at [www.arml.org/mhbf](http://www.arml.org/mhbf). The book is now more cohesive and user friendly than ever before. Many of the enrollment and eligibility requirements can now be found in the participation agreement that each group will be required to execute. Participation agreements are being mailed to all benefit administrators in December along with a copy of the 2018 MHBF booklet.

Most of the substantive changes to the plan for 2018 involve the prescription drug program. Those changes are outlined below:

- The copayment for specialty drugs has increased. Specialty drugs are high-cost drugs, usually costing well over \$1,000, used to treat serious conditions. Specialty drugs are not to be confused with the drugs that fall into the \$10/\$30/\$50 copayment tier. Examples of specialty drugs include certain chemotherapy drugs, home infused antibiotics, and MS injectable medications. The copayment for specialty drugs in 2018 will be \$100 for drugs costing less than \$1,000 and \$200 for drugs costing more than \$1,000.
- Impotence/ED medications will be limited to four (4) per month and the daily form of Cialis will be excluded.
- The following drugs have been excluded because of the availability of a generic equivalent or alternative medication: Qudexy XR, Topiramate XR, Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac, Paxil, Zoloft, Rexulti, Auvi-Q, and EpiPen. You can find a complete list at [www.arml.org/MHBF](http://www.arml.org/MHBF). MHBF utilizes an evidence-based program. Drug therapies covered by the plan are evaluated and based on clinical evidence.

There are many internal changes continuously being made at the Municipal Health Benefit Fund to ensure that members receive the best coverage possible. MHBF's licensed nursing staff frequently attends continuing education classes. Training for MHBF's customer service representatives and claims analysts is continually updated. All customer service calls are recorded for quality control and training purposes. MHBF's provider network is expanding daily. At MHBF, we appreciate our members. It is our goal to provide each participant with the best health coverage and service experience possible.



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