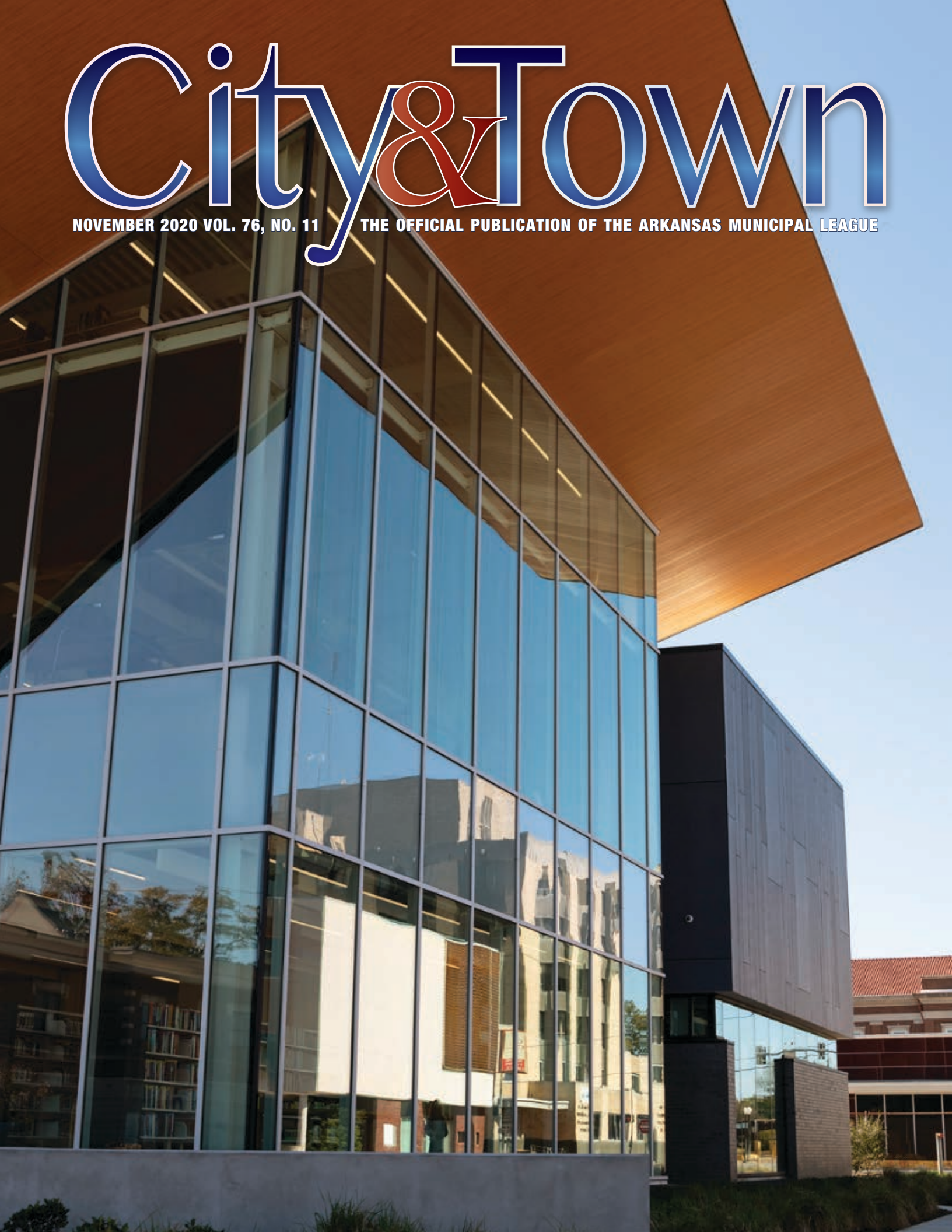


City & Town

NOVEMBER 2020 VOL. 76, NO. 11

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



How do you think new money becomes old money?



Lile Choate
VP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR



Richard Clark
SVP, Trust Officer
Conway, AR



Rena Escue
Trust Officer
Jonesboro, AR



Chuck Tlapek
SVP, Chief Investment Officer
Little Rock, AR



Alexandra Bowen
VP, Trust Officer
Jonesboro, AR

At Simmons, our Investment Management services help you get the most out of your money. Our wealth management professionals have on average more than 20 years of experience and are responsible for over \$6 billion in assets. We will manage your portfolio with a diligent approach and in-depth knowledge of the marketplace. We'll devise clear strategies to help protect and grow your assets. That way, you can continue to work towards the future you've always envisioned.

*Put our experience to work for your legacy.
Speak with one of our wealth management experts and start planning your tomorrow.*

Trust | Investments | Insurance | Private Banking

Simmons Wealth Management is a marketing name used by the trust division of Simmons Bank.

Investments and Insurance Products Are: Not a Deposit | Not FDIC Insured
Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency | Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value.



Cover photo by Ben Cline.



ON THE COVER—The new Pine Bluff Main Library is just one part of a resurgent downtown. Read about the community-wide efforts to breathe new life into the historic Delta city inside beginning on page 22. Also, get to know the League’s 2020-2021 District 1 vice president and Cave City Mayor Jonas Anderson, and learn how Augusta’s mayor went from an addict to a community leader, all inside this issue.—atm

Features

18 Cave City mayor builds on community’s strengths

Mayor Jonas Anderson, the League’s 2020-2021 District 1 vice president, is Cave City born and bred, and whether it’s talking up the “world’s sweetest watermelons” or new construction, he’s working to make sure his hometown can meet its challenges.

22 A resurgence in Pine Bluff

After decades of stagnation and false starts, the Delta hub city of Pine Bluff is experiencing a revival with downtown streetscape projects, revitalized old buildings and new public amenities like the Pine Bluff Main Library.

26 From meth to mayor

When Augusta Mayor Jeff Collins turned his life around and dedicated himself to public service, he didn’t try to hide his past or shy away from sharing his sometimes disturbing tale. Instead, he has used his experience to help others fighting addiction.

City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....	5
Attorney General Opinions.....	13
Community Development.....	40
Engineering.....	46
From the Desk of the Executive Director.....	6
Loss Control.....	43
Meeting Calendar.....	12
Municipal Mart.....	54
Municipal Notes.....	12
Obituaries.....	12
Planning to Succeed.....	38
President’s Letter.....	4
Sales Tax Map.....	51
Sales Tax Receipts.....	52
Turnback Estimates.....	50
Urban Forestry.....	44
XPert Diagnostics.....	48
Your Health.....	42

November greetings to my fellow municipal officials, This is a busy month. We began November with the end of daylight-saving time. Have you changed the batteries in your smoke detectors recently? It's almost impossible to forget because in most stores there are huge displays of batteries right at the entrance. I've heard that we need to change those batteries when we change our clocks in the spring and fall. I feel confident that most batteries in the smoke detectors should last longer than those few months. However, Kay wants me to change them out every year, and I do.



Election Day came on the third day of the month. Some are happy with the results, and some are not happy. Either way you feel, aren't you happy that we live in a country where we have the freedom to vote, and by voting we are exercising our right to make our voices heard? Obviously, I am writing this in October before we know any election outcomes, so whatever happened, we are still here and pressing on serving our cities and towns.

We celebrated our veterans on the 11th. Veterans Day is a big day for me. After serving our nation for more than 27 years in active duty with the United States Air Force, I am thankful to be a veteran. November is a month of thanksgiving. What are you thankful for? If you are like me, you could fill pages and pages with what you are grateful for. Pause for just a minute or so right now and think about those things you are blessed with.

Have you read through the *Policies and Goals 2020-2021* booklet that was included in your October *City & Town* magazine? If not, please read it cover to cover. It is loaded with tremendous information. As your president, I have committed to remind you about the value of the five major benefit programs your League offers. This month I want you to consider the Municipal Property Program. A great pamphlet is available to you about this program, which states on the cover that this program is a self-funded risk management trust designed to benefit its local governmental members. Email mpp@arml.org to request a copy of the pamphlet, or visit www.arml.org to review the information about this valuable program.

I also encourage you to attend the National League of Cities Virtual City Summit, November 18-20. As a member of the Arkansas Municipal League, your city or town is automatically a member of the NLC and can take advantage of the tremendous educational opportunities they offer. Go to citysummit.nlc.org to register and see a preview of the agenda.

I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving. Our city offices shut down at noon on the day before Thanksgiving and open back up on the following Monday. I hope that you give your employees ample time off to enjoy their families and express their thankfulness in the way they choose. However, our city services to our citizens continue even on holidays. Aren't you thankful for your police, firefighters, first responders, public works (water, sewer and sanitation) employees, and everyone else who keeps those vital services going? I am thankful.

May God Bless you and bless you indeed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Baxter".

Gary Baxter
Mayor, Mulberry
President, Arkansas Municipal League

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

Mayor Gary Baxter, **Mulberry**..... President
Mayor Tim McKinney, **Berryville**..... First Vice President
Mayor Jonas Anderson, **Cave City**..... Vice President, District 1
Council Member Beverly Williams, **Sherwood**.. Vice President, District 2
Mayor Kevin Johnston, **Gentry**..... Vice President, District 3
Mayor Shirley Washington, **Pine Bluff**..... Vice President, District 4
Mark R. Hayes Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, **Batesville**; Mayor Darrell Kirby, **Bay**; Mayor Tim McKinney, **Berryville**; Mayor James Sanders, **Blytheville**; Mayor Jonas Anderson, **Cave City**; Vice Mayor Kevin Settle, **Fort Smith**; Mayor Sammy Hartwick, **Greenbrier**; Mayor Doug Kinslow, **Greenwood**; Mayor Tonya Kendrix, **Hermitage**; City Manager Catherine Cook, **Hope**; Mayor Pat McCabe, **Hot Springs**; Council Member Reedie Ray, **Jacksonville**; Council Member Sam Angel, II, **Lake Village**; Mayor Jerry Boen, **Lamar**; Mayor Parnell Vann, **Magnolia**; Mayor Steve Dixon, **Marmaduke**; Council Member James Turner, **Mena**; Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer, **Morrilton**; Council Member Debi Ross, **North Little Rock**; Council Member Tyler Dunegan, **Osceola**; Mayor Sonny Hudson, **Prairie Grove**; Mayor Greg Hines, **Rogers**; Mayor Virginia Young, **Sherwood**; Mayor Bobby Neal, **Smackover**; Mayor Paul Colvin, Jr., **Tontitown**; Council Member Allan Loring, **Wrightsville**

PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, **Batesville**; Mayor Harold Perrin, **Jonesboro**; Mayor Frank Fogleman, **Marion**; Mayor Joe A. Smith, **North Little Rock**; Mayor Mike Gaskill, **Paragould**; Mayor Jackie Crabtree, **Pea Ridge**; Mayor Doug Sprouse, **Springdale**; Mayor Robert Patrick, **St. Charles**; Mayor Harry Brown, **Stevens**

CITIES OF THE LARGE FIRST CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL: City Administrator Carl Geffken, **Fort Smith**, Chair; Mayor Peter Christie, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Stephanie Orman, **Bentonville**; Mayor Allen Scott, **Bryant**; Council Member Eddie Long, Norma Naquin, and Council Member James Reid, **Cabot**; Mayor Veronica Smith-Creer, City Clerk Heather McVay and Council Member Paul Choate, **El Dorado**; Chief of Staff Susan Norton, **Fayetteville**; Mayor Cedric Williams and Council Member Jason Evansingston, **Forrest City**; Deputy City Manager Lance Spicer, **Hot Springs**; Council Member Mary Twitty, **Jacksonville**; Council Members Chris Gibson and John Street, **Jonesboro**; City Director Lance Hines and Director of Strategic Operations Emily Cox, **Little Rock**; Clerk/Treasurer Tina Timmons and Council Members Chad Gardner and Terry Williams, **Maumelle**; Council Member Jim Bodenhamer, **Mountain Home**; Council Members Steve Baxter and Charlie Hight, **North Little Rock**; City Clerk Andrea Williams and Council Member Josh Agee, **Paragould**; Council Member Steven Mays, **Pine Bluff**; Council Member Marina Brooks, **Sherwood**; City Director Mindy Hunt, **Siloam Springs**; Mayor Joseph Hurst, **Van Buren**

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mayor Jimmy Williams, **Marianna**, Chair; Council Member Larry Hall, **Bay**; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren and Human Resources Director Kim Weeks, **Beebe**; Mayor Danny Shaw, **Bono**; Council Member Ron Burrow, **Brinkley**; Mayor Bill Edwards and Council Member Wayne Low, **Centerton**; Council Member C.T. Foster, **Crossett**; Mayor Flora Simon and Council Member Romona Weatherford, **Dumas**; Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, **Eureka Springs**; Mayor Rodney Robertson and Clerk/Treasurer Ruth Keith, **Leachville**; Mayor Doyle Fowler and Council Members Glinda Lou Dallas and Mary Ann Whitlock, **McCroary**; Mayor Sally Wilson, **Osceola**; Council Member David Hickman, **Parkin**; Council Members Tony Cunningham and Brea Gragg, **Prairie Grove**; Council Member Patricia Roberts, **Prescott**; Mayor Charles Snapp, **Walnut Ridge**; Mayor Charles Gastineau, **Ward**; Council Member Dorothy Henderson, **Warren**

INCORPORATED TOWNS AND CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mayor Dennis Behling, **Lakeview**, Chair; Recorder/Treasurer Stacey Bennett, **Cherry Valley**; Council Members Robert Otis and Doyle Scroggins, **Fairfield Bay**; Council Member Jennifer Porter, **Flippin**; Mayor Jeff Braim and Council Member Anita Seaman, **Gassville**; Mayor B.T. Smith, **Glenwood**; Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill, **Haskell**; Recorder/Treasurer Mary Ruth Wiles, **Highland**; Mayor Craig Huckaby, **Horseshoe Bend**; Mayor Carl Lee Griswold, **Mitchellville**; Mayor Bob Blankenship, **Monette**; Mayor Michael Marsh, **Pangburn**; Mayor Roben Brooks and Recorder/Treasurer Dane Fults, **Redfield**; Council Member Toni Blackwell, **Shannon Hills**; Recorder/Treasurer Rick East, **Smackover**; Recorder/Treasurer Rita Fite, **Sparkman**; Mayor Brenda Porter, **Tollette**; Mayor Michael R. Frasier, **Weiner**

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL: Chief of Police/Assistant City Manager J.R. Wilson, **Hope**, Chair; Council Member Jim Wozniak, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Kenneth Jones, **Brookland**; Mayor Crystal Marshall, **Crossett**; Council Member Robin Cook, **Dermott**; Council Member Dianne Hammond, **El Dorado**; Police Chief/Mayor Tim Mayfield, **Gassville/Salesville**; Director of Community Development J.C. Brenaman, **Highfill**; City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, **North Little Rock**; City Director Karen Garcia, **Hot Springs**; Mayor Roxie Hall, **Ozark**; Fire Chief Kevin Lang, **Paragould**; Council Member James Pulliaum, **West Memphis**; Mayor Jennifer Hobbs, **Wynne**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: City Administrator Phillip Patterson, **Siloam Springs**, Chair; Council Member John Flynn, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Randall Noblett, **Cave Springs**; Council Member Robin Reed, **Centerton**; Council Member Judy Weaver, **Clarksville**; Council Member Gail King, **Des Arc**; Mayor George McGill, **Fort Smith**; Council Member Naomi Lassen, **Gassville**; Mayor Dane Weindorf, **Hamburg**; City Director Mark Ross, **Hope**; Mayor Bob Johnson, **Jacksonville**; Chief of Staff Mike Downing, **Jonesboro**; Council Member Jennifer Massey, **Mayflower**; Mayor Hillrey Adams and Council Member Paige Evans, **Mountain Home**; Mayor Roger Gardner, **Mountain View**; Council Member Rick Ault, **Prairie Grove**; Council Member Howard Austin, **Prescott**; Council Member Betty Cook, **Sheridan**

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Mayor David Stewart, **Newport**, District 1; Finance Director Joy Black, **Bryant**, District 2; Mayor Bill Edwards, **Centerton**, District 3; Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard, **Clarksville**, District 4; Mayor Denisa Pennington, **Warren**, At-Large Member

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Human Resources Director Charlette Nelson, **Jacksonville**, District 1; Human Resources Director Lisa Mabry-Williams, **Conway**, District 2; Clerk/Treasurer Sharla Derry, **Greenwood**, District 3; Mayor Paige Chase, **Monticello**, District 4; City Attorney Howard Cain, **Huntsville**, At-Large Member and Group Manager

PENSION MANAGEMENT AND OPEB TRUSTS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Treasury Manager Scott Massanelli, **Little Rock**, Chair; Comptroller Mandy Spicer, **Benton**, Vice Chair; City Manager Gary Brinkley, **Arkadelphia**; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren, **Beebe**; Chief of Staff Danny Bradley, **North Little Rock**

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

From the Desk of the Executive Director

What I'm Thankful For

That title sounds kinda cliché, even trite given COVID-19. In the best of years, it's predictable to talk about one's blessings as we near the Thanksgiving holiday.¹² In the past doing so helped me get into the holiday spirit. Our lives are so fast paced and tense that we don't slow down and appreciate all that we have. With the coronavirus all those stressors are compounded. I wonder if there's room for being thankful or for Thanksgiving at all. When I get overwhelmed like this, I try to add a little humor. Lemme give it a try and maybe it'll get me to a better place where I can start being "thankful." Here we go!

We've all read or listened to remarks by public figures and comedians that no doubt have left us smiling. Growing up, Johnny Carson³ could always deliver the laughs. He once noted: "Thanksgiving is an emotional time. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they see only once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often."⁴ One of the two "Wild and Crazy Guys," Steve Martin⁵, once quipped: "OMG, I gave thanks for everything yesterday, but it was the WRONG DAY."⁶ I can so hear his voice in that line! Even President Barack Obama⁷ tossed out this one liner:⁸ "Time flies, even if turkeys don't." Admittedly those are all pretty good.

Of course, we also know there are some topics likely to set off a nuclear explosion if brought up while carving the turkey. For instance, bringing up the personal loan you made to your brother-in-law while digging into pumpkin pie will no doubt cause a ruckus. Trying to discuss politics—particularly now—will earn a stern look if you're lucky. You could end up covered in gravy, depending on how volatile the issue is! Lastly, there's no more sure-fire way to dampen the lavish meal than noting, loudly, how you'd change the recipe of the very food you're consuming. Yikes.

Okay, I'm feeling a bit better. Perhaps now I can get something on paper. Let's see.

I'm preaching to the choir when I say 2020 has been anything but fun. I cannot recall a harsher, more trying time than this past 10 months.⁹ The virus has changed so much of what we took for granted. Remember those morning chats around the coffee pot discussing the game from the evening before, or letting everyone know how fun your new baby or grandbaby is? How about visiting your grandparents, elderly uncles and aunts? Those wonderful Sunday lunches after church have vanished. Shoot, going to church has vanished. I don't know about you, but I watch online with my local controller.¹⁰ Ah, the good old days of 2019. We did all those things a mere 10 months ago without batting an eye, but COVID put those loving get-togethers on hold. Now we must limit



¹ "Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and Thanksgiving 2020 occurs on Thursday, November 26. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held the last Thursday of November." <https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving>

² Now, for those of you who are nerdy history fans like me you'll enjoy this. In 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week to help with retail sales. Hints of Black Friday. I digress. His decision was heavily criticized. Opponents referred to it as "Franksgiving." Reluctantly, in 1941 Roosevelt signed legislation returning the holiday to the fourth Thursday of November.

³ Carson was born in Corning, Iowa, on October 23, 1925. He died in Los Angeles on January 23, 2005, at the age of 79. I can't believe it's been that long. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Carson

⁴ www.scarymommy.com/funny-thanksgiving-quotes

⁵ Martin was born in Waco, Texas, on August 14, 1945. He's alive, funny and plays the banjo. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Martin

⁶ www.scarymommy.com/funny-thanksgiving-quotes

⁷ President Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961. He's a year younger than me! Oh, well. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama

⁸ <https://www.scarymommy.com/funny-thanksgiving-quotes/>

⁹ Many thanks to all of you keeping me, Alison, Dwight and the rest of the family in your prayers regarding the death our son Wells.

¹⁰ Okay, I admit it. Sometimes I'm still in my PJs and yes, I also have a cup of coffee while watching. Don't judge! I'm worshipping. As for writing this column, I may or may not be doing so whilst in my bedtime attire. I leave you to guess.

our time in public spaces. We grab a mask to go down the hall to the copier. We spray so much disinfectant it's a wonder any of us could get a cold much less a deadly virus. Yet with all those efforts COVID-19 still looms. Like a haunting shadow it clings to us. With that sort of feeling it's a wonder we can be positive and kind in any circumstance, much less "thankful." Ugh. Now I'm not feeling so great again.

Surely there's a way to feel better, isn't there?

The CDC offers some simple advice. They say get plenty of sleep, eat healthy, pray or meditate or both, avoid excessive alcohol or drug use, and exercise regularly.¹¹ I bet most of you already knew that. What other advice is out there? I googled "fun things to do during COVID." Are you ready for the results?! I bet not because there were 1,970,000,000 hits from that search! I'm not kidding. And no, I did not read them all. Here a few of my favorites¹² from just one of the hits:

- Play tag with an asteroid. I'm not kidding. It was on a list. I don't get it either.
- Build a bonfire. Safely, of course.
- Make your own bonfire toffee. No.
- Set up a weekly Zoom call with friends and family. This works and it's a gas! Ask Mother Hayes or my local controller if you don't believe me.
- Drink more water. While it's good advice, I'm not sure "fun" is how I would describe it. Maybe hold a "who can drink the most water in 30 seconds contest." I agree, that sounds lame.
- Play pickleball. Don't shoot the messenger, although I have been told its loads of fun.
- "This isn't our first or last pandemic." Again, don't shoot the messenger. The description of this "fun" endeavor notes we should spend time learning of past and future pandemics. I'm not doing that. Not fun.
- Gather chestnuts and play Conkers. I don't know where to get chestnuts, but the video is sorta fun: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GaGw73LijM. There's even a Conker World Championship! See www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dY Ae_8VXFw. I should mention this is a thing done in England.
- Watch some of the TV series or streaming series you've heard so much about but haven't seen. I wholeheartedly support this. The local controller and I have watched several series. I'm hopeful I can talk her into watching *Dogs* next. I think Zorro and Elby would enjoy it, but not Haddee!¹³

I'm feeling better again, so back to being thankful. I'm thankful for:

- My family. My beautiful local controller and our wonderful children Franz, Bliss, Colin and Wells. We miss Wells so much. It hurts like nothing I've ever known, but I'm oh so thankful we had him in our lives for the brief period we did. He's in heaven, and I'm most thankful knowing that.
 - Mother Hayes. She really is a rock star and in many ways the foundation of our merry family band. Eighty-eight and going strong!
 - My brother Pete and his wife Jane. Well, mostly Jane. Just kidding! He's my younger brother and I've got to razz him whenever I can.
 - Alison's brother Byrne, his wife Dyan and my cutie pie 2-year-old nephew Ryder!¹⁴
 - And the rest of the Hayes, Bratton, Offutt and Lewis clan. You know who you are!
- Zorro, Elby and even the big red cat Haddee.
- Being employed by you as your executive director. I'm thankful for the world's best staff. I assure you; we are thankful for each of you. You are the very best thing about working at the League.

¹¹ www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html

¹² Admittedly some of my "favorites" are because I found them funny or impossible to do in Arkansas. Nevertheless, it turns out there are ways to have fun despite this awful virus.

¹³ www.cnn.com/2020/09/22/health/fall-fun-things-to-do-wellness/index.html

¹⁴ His first words were "Uncle Mark." Fine, that's not true. He said, "Go Packers!" Yeah, that ain't true either. But man he's cute. We FaceTime with him and talk about feeling better. He laughs, runs, jumps and talks. A bundle of energy! He leaves us exhausted just from watching him play and oh so happy seeing him do so.

- Cooler weather.
- Football: Red Wolves, Hogs and the Green Bay Packers! And the Golden Hurricane of Jonesboro! Right, Mayor Perrin?!
- My health and the health of my family.
- Doctors, nurses, lab assistants and all those who work in the health care industry. What a brave group they are. How lucky are we to have them?!
- My good friends. You know who you are.
- My faith. My church attendance is probably better since we're going online but I cannot imagine not having my faith during these trying times.
- Our governor and his team leading us during these dicey times.
- Dr. Fauci.
- Cities and towns. To think of all you do, every day, rain or shine, is at times overwhelming.
- Thank you to those serving in the ranks of police, fire, parks, streets, public works, water, waste water, planning...the list goes on and on. Each of you makes a difference every day. You make your city or town better. You make Arkansas better.

Now I really am feeling better. The upcoming Thanksgiving holiday provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on what is truly important. Family, friends, a roof over our heads, food in our bellies and so much more. As I reflect, I think about the League and each of you. You have devoted yourselves to public service. There is no more noble calling than that. I've said it many times, even in this column, but it remains so very true and worth repeating. You make a difference every day. Municipal government is the only form of government that touches people's lives every minute of every day. Think about that. Your work is powerful and meaningful. There are very few things in life that fit that description.

As I'm finishing this, I'm looking at the view outside my den.¹⁵ The leaves are changing and it's much cooler. There's a slight wind causing the browner leaves on the oaks in my backyard to gently fall to the ground. It's a calming view. I wish the same for each of you, calmness during Thanksgiving. We all need a little bit post-election and in the middle of this terrible pandemic.

If I might be so bold, please do the following:

- Wear a mask.
- Wash your hands.
- Stay 6 feet apart.
- Enjoy the peace and calmness of Thanksgiving.
- Finally, give yourself a pat on the back for being part of the solution and not a part of the problem. Municipal work is something you should be very, very proud of.

Until next month, peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

¹⁵ I'm working at home about 50 percent of the time. Sorry if the dogs bark while we're on the phone!



The thinkers and doers, the creatives and game changers of the future are in child care.

Children are born learning. Their early years determine a child's path to learning and success in life.

Working parents depend on quality child care providers to be their partners in giving their children a good start in life.

Business depends on those same parents to keep the economy thriving.

Arkansas's future workforce is in child care.

Every child has a chance to succeed. You can help.
**Support quality child care and early childhood education in your area –
for a brighter future for all of us.**



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY



ARBetterBeginnings.com • 501-682-8590



**How can
businesses and
municipalities
support quality
early childhood
education?**

**Ask a local child
care provider what
you can do to help
Arkansas's children
succeed.**

**And please, say
"thank you"
from all of us.**

**Visit our
website to:**



Share this tool with
your staff for finding
quality-rated
child care



Discover and share
how children learn
through play



Watch the video
to discover how
children in quality
child care can affect
your bottom line

*Better Beginnings
is Arkansas's
quality rating and
improvement system
for licensed child care
and early education
programs.*



The Right Reports. Right Now.



To get your
FREE
guide visit:

www.csasoftwaresolutions.com/fundaccounting



CenterPoint®
Fund Accounting
and Payroll Software

Distributed By

CSAsolutions
Accounting & Billing Specialists

www.csasoftwaresolutions.com • 800.264.4465

City&Town

Publisher

Mark R. Hayes

Deputy Director

Whitnee V. Bullerwell

Communications & Creative Manager

Mel Jones

Editor

Andrew T. Morgan

Graphic Designer

Mark R. Potter

Communications Coordinator

Ben Cline

Advertising Assistant

Tricia Zello

Contributors

Allen Bates

Mark Friedman

Allen Green

Robert Hopkins Jr., M.D.

Dwain Hebda

Jim von Tungeln

Jeremy Waits

Emily Cooper Yates

arml.org



belocalbeheard.com



@armunileague



[armunicipalleague](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmunicipalleague)

flickr

[arkansas_municipal_league](https://www.flickr.com/photos/arkansas_municipal_league/)



citytown@arml.org



GreatCitiesGreatState.com

City&Town (ISSN 0193-8371 and Publication No. 031-620) is published monthly for \$20 per year (\$1.67 per single copy) by the Arkansas Municipal League, 301 W. Second St., North Little Rock, AR 72114. Periodicals postage paid at North Little Rock, Ark. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to City&Town, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

TRAIN YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS WITH EMT/PARAMEDIC SKILLS



ENROLL YOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL IN THE **EMT/PARAMEDIC** PROGRAM!

- Tuition FREE for all active-duty law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and firefighters
- Basic EMT program is 15 weeks both online and in class
- Paramedic program can be completed in 1 year
- Only paramedic program in Arkansas that has the EMT certificate embedded in the program
- All clinical hours can be completed where you live
- Temporary housing available

CALL 870-633-4480, EXT. 469 OR EMAIL JHILL@EACC.EDU.

EACC.EDU

 **East Arkansas**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Time to levy property taxes

City 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.* A.C.A. § 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.

2020 Act 833 deadline for Arkansas fire departments

The 2020 Act 833 application period will open January 1, 2021, and will close June 30, 2021. Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board 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 for all active members.

An online application is available on the Arkansas Fire Portal at arfire.arkansas.gov. To request log-in credentials contact your county LEMC/Fire Coordinator or State Fire Coordinator Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or email louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov.

Meeting Calendar

November 18-20, 2020, National League of Cities Virtual City Summit.

January 13-15, 2021, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference.

Report shows historic preservation good for state economy

According to a new report commissioned by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), the combined use of historic preservation resources has significantly contributed to our state's healthy economy, the agency has announced. Over the last decade the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit has attracted nearly \$224 million in private investment for the rehabilitation of historic properties, Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and the State Historic Preservation Officer Stacy Hurst said in a media release.

The AHPP commissioned the report by PlaceEconomics, a Washington, D.C.-based real estate and economic development consulting firm, to determine the economic impact of historic preservation. The report looked at different but overlapping programs within the AHPP: Main Street Arkansas, the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credit and AHPP's grants. The full report can be downloaded at bit.ly/31L9gyH. Snapshots from the report include:

- In the last decade, the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credit provided funding to help in the rehabilitation of more than 320 buildings in 24 cities.
- Courthouses Restoration Grants have been utilized in 64 counties, preserving many buildings that would be costly to duplicate in modern times.
- 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties have benefitted from funding.
- More than 2,400 grants have been given out by AHPP since 1979.
- Main Street communities have invested over \$377 million in buildings, infrastructure and public improvements, 78 percent of which has come from the private sector and created more than 3,900 jobs since Main Street Arkansas' inception in 1984. 🏛️

Obituaries

JOE GIES, 90, a former Lakeview council member and the League's 2008-2009 District 1 vice president, died Oct. 26. He also served on the Executive Committee and the Second Class Cities Advisory Council.

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Privacy concerns may preclude release of some personnel records

Opinion: 2020-049

Requestor: City of Little Rock

Custodian of records for the City of Little Rock requests an opinion on the custodian’s decision to withhold “all written requests by any City of Little Rock employee for leave due to significant illness of a family member and documents showing that the leave was approved or denied,” as well as “all written requests for leave that the City of Little Rock deemed a Family Medical Leave Act request and documents showing whether the leave was approved or not” in response to a FOIA request for the above-referenced documents on the grounds that the documents are personnel records and that their release would constitute a “clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” RESPONSE: In my opinion, the custodian is correct to classify the records being sought as “personnel records.” But I question the custodian’s decision to withhold those records as being a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. If the custodian has made this determination based simply upon the wording of the request, then the custodian’s decision is inconsistent with the FOIA. However, if the custodian has made this determination after identifying and reviewing records responsive to the request, then the custodian’s decision may be consistent with the FOIA.

Employee’s evaluation records meet disclosure test under FOIA

Opinion: 2020-051

Requestor: Brent D. Houston, city attorney, Benton

Is the determination of the custodian of records to release 16 additional personnel and evaluation records, which include audio and video recordings, in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for “records, allegations of misconduct, and internal affairs investigative files pertaining to [a] former Benton Police Officer” consistent with provisions of the FOIA? RESPONSE: Having reviewed the records, it is my opinion that the custodian has properly classified most of the records as the former employee’s evaluation records. The custodian has determined that these evaluation records meet the applicable test for disclosure; and from the face of the records that have been provided to me, this decision appears to be consistent with the FOIA. Depending upon all of the surrounding circumstances, however, some third-party privacy concerns may merit consideration.

To read full Attorney General opinions online, go to www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search.



Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2nd & Willow • P.O. Box 38 • North Little Rock, AR 72115 • (501) 374-3484

September 30, 2020

**TO: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COUNCILS,
MAYORS, CITY ADMINISTRATORS, CITY MANAGERS, CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS,
TREASURERS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS**

FROM: MARK R. HAYES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

SUBJECT: 2021 BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by Mayor Gary Baxter, met virtually. Several items considered will affect your budget preparations for 2021.

League Service Charge. The Executive Committee retained the current service charge formula. The base charge is \$40 plus 35¢ per capita with 7¢ per capita credits, determined on October 1st, for participation in each of the following programs:

- Municipal Legal Defense Program
- Municipal Health Benefit Program
- Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program
- Municipal Vehicle Program
- Municipal Property Program

Also continued by the Executive Committee was inclusion of membership in the National League of Cities for all our members.

Municipal Legal Defense Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Legal Defense Program retained the current service charge formula for 2021. The 2021 charges range from \$1.25 to \$7.00 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. The optional drug and alcohol testing program for non-Commercial Drivers License (CDL) employees will continue to be available and can be implemented by increasing your MLDP charge by 20¢ per capita. This program is underutilized and can save your city or town money and liability.

Municipal Health Benefit Program. The Board of Trustees made some minor changes which will be effective January 1st. The 2021 Bylaws will be accessible online at www.arml.org/mhbp. If you are not currently participating in the MHBP and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program. The Board of Trustees adopted the 2020 Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission rates for use in 2021 with the application of state

mandated experience modifications (NCCI). They approved a 2% front-end discount for participating members with a loss ratio of 100% or less for the last five years. They also approved a 1% discount for reporting estimated payroll timely.

Municipal Vehicle Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Vehicle Program did not make any changes to the Program Bylaws and retained the current rates for 2021. The Bylaws and Program Summary are accessible online at www.arml.org/mvp.

Municipal Property Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Property Program did not make any changes to the Program Bylaws. The Board did approve a 20% increase in rates effective 12-1-20 due to increased renewal costs from our outside reinsurance carrier. The optional deductible buy-downs for entities in Class 1 and Class 2 remain unchanged. The flood deductibles are \$500,000 for ALL flood zones effective 12-1-20. We are encouraging our MPP members to consider the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to cover this deductible. NFIP can provide flood coverage up to \$500,000 with multiple deductible options. MPP would cover losses over \$500,000. The Bylaws and MPP Program Summary are accessible online at www.arml.org/mpp.

Turnback Estimates. Estimates for general turnback are as follows. The street turnback estimate includes proceeds from the highway ½ cent sales tax¹ and the wholesale fuel tax.

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Street Turnback	-	\$65.50 per capita	\$68.50 per capita
General Turnback	-	<u>\$15.50</u> per capita	<u>\$15.50</u> ² per capita
Total Turnback	-	\$81.00 per capita	\$84.00 per capita

APERS. For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution will remain at 15.32% for 2021 and the employee rate will stay at 5%.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you prepare your 2021 budgets.

¹ Please recall this ½ cent sales tax is finite and will no longer be collected as of June 1, 2023. A replacement ½ cent (Issue 1) will be on the general election ballot in November 2020.

Without the passage of the new ½ cent your street funding will dramatically plummet.

² On March 23, 2020 the Governor cut the state budget by 5.32% due to the pandemic resulting in only 85% of municipal aid placed in Category A for July 2020-June 2021. General revenues have exceeded the forecast for the last four months, so cities and towns should receive 100% of their general turnback barring any unforeseen circumstances. Distributions have been 85% below normal but larger distributions are expected around April, May and June 2021.

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Message from 2020-2021 ACCRTA President Denise Johnston



Hello! I am Denise Johnston, city clerk/treasurer for the city of Batesville and current president of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA). I am in my 30th year as city clerk and a longtime member of the ACCRTA. I want to tell you a little bit about our state association and the many benefits of membership for both new members as well as us “seasoned” clerks.

The purpose of ACCRTA is multi-faceted. We are here to help you be the best representative of your city or town that your community has ever had. In a time when a lot of people do not trust the government, we strive to remain a trusted and go-to public representative in the community. We provide and networking opportunities to provide information on upcoming events, information about changing laws, questions and answers regarding legislation, city and town finances and so much more!

Our association offers scholarships to our members throughout the year for our annual Municipal Clerks Institute, district workshops, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks annual conference and more. These funds are beneficial in a time when many cities and towns are facing tight budgets. Our scholarships are funded through membership dues, donations and fundraising events that occur throughout the year.

We also have a mentor program where a member with years of experience is connected with someone in the area from a similarly sized city or town to help answer questions or provide direction.

Our association also works closely with Arkansas Municipal League attorneys, who provide an updated ACCRTA Handbook to our members free of charge. This handbook is beneficial when questions arise about various state laws pertaining to the municipal clerk profession. It is a great tool for keeping up with the laws that can change frequently in our profession.

Our association also partners with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville for the annual Municipal Clerk Institute (MCI). This is usually an in-person learning opportunity, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s MCI was held virtually.

North Little Rock Chief Deputy City Clerk and Treasurer Katelyn Thomas has also been hard at work updating our website. Go to www.accrta.org to see what’s new and improved! If you have any questions or suggestions you can email kthomas@nlr.ar.gov. Our association also has a Facebook page that members can join. It can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/ACCRTA, or you can email Sharla Derry at sderry@gwark.com.

The 2020-2021 ACCRTA officers are:

- President: Denise Johnston, Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer
- Vice President: Dena Malone, Clinton Recorder/Treasurer
- Vice President: Becky Walker, Mansfield Recorder/Treasurer
- Secretary: Tina Timmons, Maumelle City Clerk/Treasurer
- Treasurer: Diane Whitbey, North Little Rock City Clerk/Treasurer
- Immediate Past President: Andrea Williams, Paragould City Clerk

I hope you will take the time to visit our website and if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me or send an email or text. My cell phone number is 870-613-0117 and email is cityclerk@cityofbatesville.com. I would love to hear from you.

Thank you and be safe,

Denise Johnson, CAMC/MMC
City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Batesville

Advertise in the 2021/2022 Directory



The *Arkansas Municipal League Directory* reaches municipal officials and many more. The *Directory* is a working reference of city and town elected and appointed officials, municipal department heads, state and federal agencies, legislators, and others. It is a one-stop information guide to all of Arkansas's 499 incorporated cities and towns. The League will print the *Directory* on a biennial basis. Therefore, your ad is good through 2022.

Ad sizes and rates:

Back cover—\$5,250

Inside back cover—\$3,750

Full page—\$2,250

Half page—\$1,500

Quarter page—\$750

- Published in early 2021
- More than 1,200 copies distributed
- 100-110 pages

Advertising deadline is December 31, 2020.

For more information, please contact Tricia Zello at (501) 374-3484, Ext. 285, or email citytown@arml.org.



Jonas Anderson, mayor of Cave City and the League's 2020-2021 District 1 vice president.

League District 1 VP's tight-knit community builds on its strengths

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Two things probably come to mind when you contemplate Cave City, the city of just under 2,000 that straddles the Independence and Sharp County line. There is of course the cave, its namesake. Having now been years since the cave and the adjacent motel have been open to tourists, it's more likely that the community's famous watermelons cross your thoughts and make you long for summer.

"Home of the World's Sweetest Watermelons," reads the sign on Main Street that greets you at the edge of downtown.

"We don't make the claim lightly—we know it's real," says Mayor Jonas Anderson, the League's 2020-2021 District 1 vice president. He estimates that, on a good year, about 15,000 people visit during the annual three-day Cave City Watermelon Festival. Until this year's cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic, the city has held the festival each July since 1980. Anderson is hopeful they'll be able to celebrate the 41st festival in 2021. Families and high school classes plan their reunions around it, but it's even bigger than that, he

says. "It truly is now a world-renowned festival. We have people from other countries who somehow find a way to us every year. We have people who drive from many states away just to purchase a carload or a truckload of watermelons and turn right back around and head out."

A handful of local growers produce all the official Cave City melons each year, and there really is something special about them, Anderson says. "They actually have a little bit of science to back it up. There is a section of ground that happens to be right here where the soil content, the sand mixture, whatever it is, just falls right and makes them incredibly sweet. If you've ever had one then you know—when you cut one open it's just like sugar, it hits you in the face."

Anderson is a third generation Cave City native. His grandparents went to school there in the 1950s and owned a mercantile store well into the '70s. His parents also grew up there, and his mother was a local school teacher for almost 40 years. "I'm born and raised and Cave City-bred the whole way," he says.

Anderson and his wife, Jessica, have two sons, the oldest in third grade and the youngest in kindergarten. In addition to being mayor, Anderson is also a full-time IT professional, having achieved his bachelor's from UA Little Rock. Later, he also earned a master's degree in American history through American Public University's online school. "I've always just loved history and honestly wanted to get my master's just to do it." He worked for the Cave City school district for several years until taking a job recently as a tech specialist with Virtual Arkansas, which partners with local schools across the state to provide learning resources. It also provides him the opportunity to work remotely.

Running for local office or becoming mayor "really wasn't on my radar at all," Anderson says. "I didn't really know much about that or how it even worked." In 2010 he attended a city council meeting because he was interested in a particular land-use issue and wanted to be part of the discussion. He was intrigued by how the process worked. Soon after that a friend who was on the council mentioned that a sitting member was about to move out of town, leaving a vacancy. He asked if Anderson would be interested in an appointment to finish the term? "I did that and really enjoyed it, and as they say the rest is history."

Moving from a position on the council to becoming mayor presented a new set of challenges. As a city council member, he says, he felt he had a grasp of everything that was going on. Once he was elected mayor, he realized there was a lot more to it. "In a small town it can be especially difficult," Anderson says. "We're in a very rural and in some ways economically depressed area of the state. So that brings a whole lot of challenges to it. But in other ways, and I think particularly with Cave City, it's easy. We have such a tight-knit community and we know everybody's just doing the best they can do. And that's all we want, for Cave City to be the best that it can be."

The community's early history was "all about the cave," Anderson says. The now gated and fenced-off entrance to the Crystal River Cave is just off Main Street and its limestone halls run deep beneath the city. The attraction brought a steady stream of tourists through the city for many years, and they bolstered the local economy. The cave and the unique tourist court have been largely closed for the last two decades, though there has been hope that one day it could once again be a viable tourist destination.

Fortunately, the city hasn't had to rely solely on tourist dollars. Like a lot of cities and towns, Cave City



The cave that gave the city its name attracted countless visitors to the area over the years.



The entrance to the Crystal River Cave is on private property. Many in the city would like to see the attraction make a comeback and become a destination once again.



For a small city, even a single new street can be a big deal, paving the way for new construction.



enjoyed a relative boom in the post-WWII years, Anderson says. There have been periods of stagnation, but the city is again experiencing a stretch of slow but steady growth. Anderson credits the growth of the school district, some of it as a result of consolidation. The school district is also the largest local employer. Another key employer is UniFirst, whose manufacturing plant has provided great jobs and been transformative for many local families, Anderson says.

One thing that excites him most about the recent growth is the diversity of small businesses opening in the city. Focusing on local entrepreneurs and local talent is starting to pay dividends, he says. “That’s something I’ve really tried to focus on as mayor. Of course it would be great to have another big manufacturer come in, or something of that



UniFirst has provided good jobs for many in Cave City. The local branch manufactures rubber mats and other industrial safety products.

type, but if you're honest with yourself, for a lot of small communities, that's few and far between."

One of the biggest challenges is securing the funding to do both the projects that need to be done and the ones that the city dreams of completing in the future, Anderson says, which include building a new municipal complex, building a new community swimming pool, and expanding its park and other amenities. In the meantime, he celebrates seemingly small victories. He points out a short stretch of new pavement, a fresh city street in a new neighborhood. To many it wouldn't look like much, he says. But because the city was able to pave

that new street, it has led to the construction of several new homes with more on the way.

At its core, Cave City is still the place where everybody knows everybody and takes care of each other, he says. "The culture has remained the same, but maybe the way we present ourselves and carry ourselves is what's changed." With the new surge of residents and businesses, and a great local school district, it's an exciting time to be a part of his hometown's leadership, Anderson says. "We're in a really good spot right now." 🏡



The Bank of Cave City, which owns the building that houses the city's library, recruited art students from Lyon College in nearby Batesville to create an eye-catching mural.



A glassy new library is in the works, accompanying a new aquatic center and an art center expansion.

Pine Bluff gets a sprucing up

By Mark Friedman

Jimmy Dill has been a businessman on Main Street in Pine Bluff for more than four decades, but he's "never been as excited about Pine Bluff's future than I am right now."

The president of Pine Bluff Title Co. made that declaration last week as he listed several projects underway in the city.

Led by the Saracen Casino Resort, which has a construction value of \$215 million, Pine Bluff is seeing growth across the city unlike any in recent years. The Saracen Casino Resort said it will create about 800 jobs in the next few weeks as it prepares to open in late October. Last fall, the Quapaw Nation opened its Saracen Annex and Q-Store, on the east side of Pine Bluff just off of U.S. Highway 65-B.

And more major projects are coming. CARTI announced in July that it is building a comprehensive cancer center in the city of about 43,000 residents. The two-story center, which will be between 25,000 and 30,000 square feet, will be CARTI's largest cancer center outside of Little Rock. The total project will cost about \$18 million. The cancer center will be near Interstate 530 on seven acres close to Trotter Ford Lincoln.

The project will be built in two phases. The first includes a modular building while the permanent

structure is under construction. The modular building is expected to be completed by the end of this year, about the same time that construction is expected to begin on the permanent building, which has a target completion date of January 2022.

Pine Bluff's industrial park also has activity. Highland Pellets, a \$229 million wood pellet manufacturing plant that opened on about 180 acres in late 2016, is planning for additional expansion in Jefferson County, said CEO Jeff Vanderpool. The expansion announcement will come later this year or early next year, he said, declining to give additional details. Late last year, Highland began upgrading its facility in an approximately \$63 million project. The project is expected to be completed in April.

And in downtown, several projects are underway, including a library and streetscape project that will alter the look of Main Street. "It's all a part of the revitalization efforts to move our city forward to improve the quality of life for the citizens here in Pine Bluff," Mayor Shirley Washington said.

Downtown has attracted some new businesses. In 2017, Jan Robinson opened Uptown Salon & Boutique at 204 S. Main St., and has seen a lot of progress. "It's nice to have new businesses come in down here," she said.

“It’s even better not to trip over concrete that’s broken.” Robinson also said she’s noticed an increase in business because of the streetscape project. “People want to come down and see what’s going on,” she said. And she expects more customers when the casino is fully opened.

Downtown is starkly different from just a few years ago, when an economic developer suggested that some buildings downtown could be scenes for *The Walking Dead*, AMC’s zombie series. That image is changing with the makeover. “It’s about the commitment to the resurgence of the downtown and making it a walkable, livable, really nice downtown quality of life,” said Allison J.H. Thompson, CEO of the Economic Development Alliance for Jefferson County. “Of course, when you talk about tourism and bringing in new revenue and getting people to town, the casino is going to be fantastic at that as well as being a quality employer. So all good things are happening right now.”



The first phase of Pine Bluff’s Main Street Streetscape Project is expected to be completed this fall. The \$5 million phase covers renovations on Main Street from Barraque Street to Fourth Avenue, including extended sidewalks for outdoor dining.



HOME LOANS WITH LOCAL SERVICE

Arvest retains the servicing of 99% of the home loans we make, giving you peace of mind that you won’t suddenly be dealing with an unknown mortgage servicing company. You can also make payments at any branch location, over the phone, or even online.

If you're considering buying a home, contact us today.

Fee assessed to non-Arvest accounts for online and telephone payments.
Loans subject to credit approval.

arvest.com/homeloan

ARVEST
BANK

 EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER Member FDIC



The Pine Bluff Aquatic Center, which opened the summer of 2019, is the city's first public pool in 30 years.

Here is a sampling of the various projects in the city:

Pine Bluff Main Library

The 32,000-square-foot library at Sixth and Main streets is scheduled to open in October, said Bobbie Morgan, director of the Pine Bluff Jefferson County Library System. The building, financed through a 2016 millage increase, will feature a teaching kitchen, recording studios, a rare books section and map collections. It will also have multipurpose meeting rooms, a boardroom, study rooms and a public computer lab. The building will have glass walls, making the structure energy efficient. The glass also will allow people passing by on Main Street to see the activity inside the library, Morgan said. The project costs about \$12.5 million.

The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas

The Arts & Science Center is expanding its Main Street campus in a \$2.5 million project funded by a grant from the Windgate Foundation of Little Rock. The ARTSpace on Main at 623 S. Main St. is scheduled to open this fall, and ARTworks on Main, at 627 S. Main St., will open early next year. The expansion includes space for community events, studios, artist apartments

and a gallery. "Our current facility only has one studio/classroom space; the limited space causes programming constraints," ASC Executive Director Rachel Miller said on ASC's website. "Staff perform a skilled juggling act when they are hosting several programs at once in our current facility."

Main Street Streetscape Project

The first phase of Pine Bluff's Main Street Streetscape Project is nearing completion. The first phase costs about \$5 million and includes renovations on Main Street from Barraque Street to Fourth Avenue. The project will also cover Walnut Street to State Street along Barraque Street. The project will turn the four-lane Main Street into two lanes, extend the sidewalks and add landscaping.

The extended sidewalks will allow restaurants to offer outdoor seating and will be helpful when Pine Bluff has its entertainment district, said Joy Blankenship, executive director of Pine Bluff Downtown Development. In addition, the utility lines were moved underground. "Good things are happening," Blankenship said. "We needed that shot in the arm." The second phase of the project will renovate Main Street from Fourth Avenue to Eighth Avenue.

Pine Bluff Aquatic Center

The center, funded by a “Penny for Progress” sales tax passed in 2011, opened in June 2019. With a construction value of \$11.2 million, the aquatic center has an indoor eight-lane competitive pool, an area for children and a leisure pool. The center also has party rooms and offers swimming lessons. Washington said the aquatic center is the city’s first public pool in nearly 30 years. “We feel like we do have a very beautiful state-of-the-art facility that our citizens are taking advantage of,” she said.

The Generator

Go Forward Pine Bluff’s innovation hub, The Generator, is expected to open this fall, said Mildred Franco, executive director of The Generator. Simmons Bank of Pine Bluff donated the building at 435 S. Main St. to The Generator and it cost about \$350,000 to renovate the 14,000-square-foot, three-story building, Franco said. Initially, The Generator will use about 8,000 square feet of the space to focus on entrepreneurship and digital learning. The



Renovations are underway on what will become ARTSpace and ARTworks on Main Street, expansions to the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas’ campus.

Generator is part of the nonprofit Go Forward Pine Bluff. The hub is not a separate entity, but it has its own advisory board, Franco said.

This article appeared originally in the August 24-30 edition of Arkansas Business and is reprinted with permission.

Foster Heavy Duty Services
316 Thomas Road
White Hall AR 71602
870-247-2670
1530@ exit 36

Joel or Noel Foster
870-540-7918
Commercial Truck
Sales and Service

<p>2006 Sutphen Nice! \$38,750</p>	<p>2007 CCC Refuse Sideload, \$48,750</p>	<p>Rescue Mini Pumper \$24,900</p>
<p>E-one Hush \$49,500</p>	<p>Hazmat Rescue Truck \$29,500</p>	<p>Gradall G3 \$15,900</p>



"I want to show these people I care. If I can be as good at being good as I was at being bad, then I will make a difference."

Heaven from Hell: Meth to Mayor

Augusta's Jeff Collins lives to tell tale of addiction, survival

By Dwain Hebda

Jeff Collins walks into a large room. He carries a plate of cookies that he sets down on a table before 15 pairs of eyes slouched into folding chairs.

Collins, 57, the founder and CEO of Second Chance Ministry of Northeast Arkansas, isn't fazed by the lukewarm reception. He's spoken in front of 80-something church groups, 30-something rehab facilities, stared down inmates at the McPherson and Varner units. Tonight's bunch has no idea who they're up against.

"If you want something sugar-coated, by all means, please get you a cookie," he begins. "Because once I start speaking, I'm going to tell you exactly what your kids think about you right now; what your parents think about you, if they're still alive; what your friends think about you. I'm going to tell you what everybody thinks about you.

"First off, you can't baffle me with your bull. Wrong answer. You didn't go spend your last \$100 that you're supposed to pay your bills with on groceries. No, no, no! You didn't do that. You spent it on dope the same way you spent your kids' Christmas money. The same way

you took the Tooth Fairy money, the \$20 you gave them, then stole it back."

Collins lets that soak in, scans the crowd for attitude, and seeing it, pounces. "Leave the bull at the door!" he thunders. "I know! I was there!"

Just a half-block from downtown Augusta's westernmost edge, the brawny White River rolls muddy and swift. Up a short embankment to the street, you can watch it flow—surging, swirling—even in the low-water period of summer. Collins has felt that kind of current before, drowning for years in a channel of drugs and accompanying deceit and depravity. His addiction cost him everything, and his redemption promised him nothing except the chance to make good on a life he once tried so hard to throw away.

He leans forward in his office chair and flips a business card to the visitor like a dime bag. It reads, "Mayor of Augusta."

"I want you to understand this: You're looking at a man that nobody liked meth any more than I did," he says. "Nobody liked marijuana any more than I did. There's no possible way you could love it any more than

I did. I loved doing crystal meth. I didn't care how down I was, how bad I felt, no matter what I had done. There's nobody that liked it all more than me."

It's a heavy fusillade of honesty, but Collins knows no other way. Ever since he was pulled from the jaws of damnation 11 years ago, long before he landed the mayor's job, he's been committed to hitting people right between the eyes with his story. All the better, he says, to help them face their own ugly truths and begin the long road back to sobriety and self-respect. "The unique thing about my position is, an addict knows that I know," he says. "I understand where you're at; I know you're going through some of the toughest times. I feel that pain because I've been in your shoes."

Collins grew up in Augusta and has lived the majority of his life here. Like many Delta farming communities, the area is known for ducks and, increasingly, addiction. The 2017 Arkansas Epidemiological State Profile of Substance Use reported Woodruff County had the second-highest rate of early initiation to drugs in Arkansas and exceeded the state average in drug use, drug availability, negative influence among peers and, perhaps most telling, parental attitudes favorable toward narcotics.

The 2020 state of things is the sad harvest of decades of unchecked drug abuse that's been going on since at

least the 1980s when Collins began using as a teenager. "You have to understand that in the early '80s, marijuana was something we did. Having a great big farm and all these places to have a little cash crop on the side, I grew my own marijuana," he says. "A lot of my buddies would drink to get drunk. I was like, 'You drink a six-pack, I'll smoke a six-pack, we're happy.' You hear all the time addiction affects everybody differently. I couldn't do certain things without catching me a buzz first. I mean, we're all going to the river, 'Hey, let's catch us a buzz.' It's what we all did; I just didn't stop."

Collins had a stint in the Army and washed out of college after a year spent partying on the money his parents sent him for books and tuition. He came home to the farm, which also included a small trucking business. He'd drive trucks and after work had no trouble finding trouble, dropping into house parties where he claims cocaine was as prevalent as alcohol.

"I was watching these people going into this room and said, 'What's going on in there?' Whole lot of people going in there," he says. "They said, 'Oh, that's the coke room.' And in my head, it told me these people are prominent, they're successful. They're going in this room, so you go on. 'You'll be alright.'"

As his trucking routes grew longer, Collins' drug use accelerated. A turning point came the first time a buddy

We infused innovation into a wastewater treatment facility to strengthen a community.

EVERYONE'S A WINNER.

Wastewater Treatment Facility / Batesville, Arkansas



We're Olsson, engineers who understand that where there's a project, there's a purpose. See how we used a bio-tech approach in Batesville, Arkansas, to upgrade an important piece of infrastructure at olsson.com.



His addiction cost him everything, and his redemption promised him nothing except the chance to make good on a life he once tried so hard to throw away.

slipped him a hit of meth to use as narcotic NoDoz. It marked the beginning of a steep spiral.

“I stayed local for a long time, but when local business wasn’t there because of the granaries shutting down, I decided to go over the road,” he says. “I was introduced to crystal meth when somebody said, ‘Take you one of these. You can drive all day.’ I had already done speed, but I didn’t use it as a working tool. I just used it recreationally.

“Now I’m using it because I can make an extra load. I can drive an extra six hours. I can drive all night instead of parking and going to sleep. It was easy to drive all night back in those days.”

Thus ushered in the darkest period of Collins’ life, where he went, in his words, from using to work to working to use. The family got out of trucking, reducing him to serial odd jobs and selling his “big boy toys” to score, even cooking his own dope on occasion. If a trucker buddy left town on a run, he’d swoop in on the guy’s left-behind wife to “get high and get laid.” Actual rock bottom is hard to pinpoint, although getting stoned in the church parking lot just to work up the nerve to go listen to his daughter sing in a Christmas choir comes close.

It all finally imploded in August 2009, writhing in pain in the back of an ambulance, cursing the EMTs and telling them to just shoot him up and let him “go the hell on home.” On the emergency room table, medical staff told him he was having a heart attack, and if he had anything to say to his family, watching in horror from across the room, best say it now.

“But my stupid ass ain’t thinkin’ like that,” he says. “I’m a junkie. I’m laying there as a meth junkie, and all I heard her say was ‘morphine,’ and I’m thinking, ‘I’ll get high on morphine.’ So, I tell that woman, ‘Hit me. I got nothing to say to them.’”

For years, Collins was reluctant to tell people what happened next in the enveloping darkness. Loud noises—a cacophony of screams, cries, pleas for help—filled his ears. He smelled sulfur and burning flesh; a ransom list of his deeds flashed before his eyes.

“All these extramarital affairs, all this family-ruining I’m doing, all these drugs, all this fun I’m having here on earth, that’s what hell is like,” he says. “I am so terrified at this moment, so scared to witness all these bad things I’ve done. They’re all coming back at me so fast, and I am convinced to this day I was standing at the gates of hell. I mean, I’m there. ‘You want to go to hell, Jeff? Here you are. You want to see real hell? Here it is.’ I’m so terrified that I’d pushed God out of my life, did everything I could to tell Him to get away from me, and yet at this one moment all I can think of was, ‘Help me, God,’ and I screamed it right then.”

Collins came to and saw the physician standing over him, eyes wide. The nurse gasped when he started to speak, and two technicians stood in shock at his very consciousness. Later, Collins would learn he’d been clinically dead for six and a half minutes before the doc gave him one last jolt with the paddles, more out of frustration than hope. They couldn’t believe he was alive, but Collins understood.

“I died a junkie, desiring everything, and when I opened my eyes it was as if everything had been reset,” he says. “I have no desire [to use] still to this day. Some of my friends smoke cigarettes; I smell them, I don’t want them. I go into people’s houses to talk to them, and I’ll smell the weed, see the needles. I know what they’re doing. But I don’t want it no more.”

What he did want was to make amends, and that desire led him to a seat on the city council and finally into the mayor’s race. Where most political candidates live in terror of past indiscretions coming to light, Collins’ skeletons danced in front of him on the campaign trail. He adopted the slogan “Meth to Mayor,” and his close victory made headlines all over the world.

Today, he’s no longer the one your mama warned you about, but one he hopes people look to for



inspiration as he works to make up for his past by creating a brighter future for his hometown. "I was really, really good at being a bad guy. I mean, I took pride in how bad I was," he says. "I've had a lot of time to wonder why I was the lucky one who got given back. I knew I owed a lot of people an apology; I'm at 1.5 million-something apologies right now and still owe some, I'm sure.

"I lived a very, very good life in this town. I want to give back. I was a leech on society for a long time, and I

didn't give a damn about nobody. I want to show these people I care. If I can be as good at being good as I was at being bad, then I will make a difference."

This story appeared originally in the September 2020 issue of Arkansas Money & Politics (www.armoneyandpolitics.com) and is reprinted with permission. The story also appears in AY Media Group's 2020 Mental Health Guide (www.aymag.com/mental-health-guide).



ETC Engineers & Architects, Inc.

Engineers, Architects & Planners



Ready to handle all of your municipal architecture and engineering needs

**1510 S. Broadway, Little Rock, AR 72202
Phone: 501-375-1786
Email: etc@etcengineersinc.com
Website: www.etcengineersinc.com**

Beard-to-beard competition flips the script on “No Shave November”

This month is “No Shave November,” and the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation (APCF) is challenging men across the state to ditch the shaving cream and razor to help raise awareness about prostate cancer. One in every nine men in Arkansas will face a diagnosis of prostate cancer in their lives, but the disease is nearly 100 percent survivable if detected early. That’s why APCF is asking the men of Arkansas to go 30 days without shaving for a good cause.


While APCF Executive Director Chris Collier is encouraging men to forego shaving for a month, he and his good friend, League Executive Director Mark Hayes—both of whom have sported beards for more than 30 years—will be battling it out in a fundraising competition that will undoubtedly result in a significant loss: Loser shaves their beard.

“No Shave November is a fun way to raise awareness for a very serious threat to men’s health in our state.



Prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting men—and among men, it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths,” said Collier. “By simply foregoing their morning shave and growing their beard, men across Arkansas can help raise funds to promote awareness in our state and support prostate cancer survivors.”

Men of all ages across Arkansas can take part in No Shave November either individually or as part of a competition in their workplaces, churches, teams or other social groups, and the League encourages municipal personnel to participate if possible. All money raised remains in Arkansas to support APCF’s free awareness and educational programs, free prostate cancer screenings and free patient assistance programs.

To learn more about No Shave November and supporting prostate cancer awareness in Arkansas—and to make a donation to save Mark’s beard—visit: arprostatecancer.org. 



Bridge-load posting certification deadline Dec. 31



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

To promote safe travel over bridges on city streets and ensure eligibility for federal highway funding, cities and towns with bridge-length structures must submit a properly endorsed bridge-load posting certification by December 31.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) administer the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and the regulations implementing this federal law place the compliance responsibility on the official with jurisdiction over each bridge. In addition to identifying structural deficiencies during the inspection process, the official must also advise the traveling public of any weight restrictions if a bridge is found to not be capable of safely supporting legal-load vehicles. If the bridge is determined to not be capable of safely supporting a minimum of a three-ton vehicle, it is the official's responsibility to close the bridge until it is adequately strengthened or replaced.

A.C.A. § 27-85-101, Conservation of Bridges, requires the "administrators of the various public highway, road and street systems shall make every effort to conserve the safe function of the bridges under their jurisdiction pursuant to the findings and recommendations of the bridge safety inspections by the bridge inspection teams of the Arkansas Department of Transportation in accord with the national bridge inspection standards published in the Federal Register."

Copies of required documents, as well as the *Local Government Procedures for Compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards* manual, can be downloaded at ardot.gov/bridge_division/bridge_rating_inventory.aspx. For questions or additional assistance, contact Todd Russell, district construction engineer, at todd.russell@ardot.gov or 870-836-6401. 🏠

EMPLOYER BENEFIT SOLUTIONS
FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR



Public sector professionals deserve a specialist.

Local government leadership means managing a melting pot of people and issues. We know. We've been easing worries and workloads in employee benefits and administration for municipalities and county governments. For insider know-how, consider American Fidelity for a different opinion.

Help is here.

- Year-Round Benefits Enrollment Support
- Employee Benefits Education
- Strategic Voluntary Benefits

AMERICAN FIDELITY

a different opinion



Brian Mauck • District Manager

800-654-8489, ext. 5480 • americanfidelity.com

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 747 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2020 projects to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs. The reporting deadline is March 15, 2021. You can access Act 747 and the required reporting document online at: www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Acts/Act747.pdf.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 27-70-207, concerning distribution of highway revenues to cities and counties, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f) A county or municipality that receives a distribution under this section or under § 26-58-124 of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or more shall report annually by March 15 to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs the following information regarding the use of the funds in the previous year:

(1) The use of the funds;

(2)(A) A general ledger accounting of the city street or road fund or the county street or road fund.

(B) The county street or road fund general ledger accounting shall be made using the County Financial Management System of tracking county revenues and expenditures;

(3) The percentage of the city street or road fund or county street or road fund that is comprised of state funds; and

(4) The details of each contracted project, including without limitation the type and description of the contracted project and the total amount expended on the contracted project.

Finally, you have been requested, to the extent possible, to identify the type of projects using the following categories below and the percentage comprised of state funds:

- 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, Assistant Director

Research Services Division

Bureau of Legislative Research

One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor

Little Rock, AR 72201


(501) 537-9192 or smithe@blr.arkansas.gov



AMListServ is now AML Communities!

Home - AML Communities

Contact Us | Terms and Conditions | Sign in



Arkansas
Municipal
League
Communities

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Home | Communities | Directory | Events | Browse | Participate

search

Welcome to the Arkansas Municipal League Communities Platform

Our new AML Communities ListServ is more secure and offers a wealth of features designed to make idea sharing easier than ever. Upon login at <http://AMLCommunity.arml.org>, you may subscribe to the following communities:

**Mayor/City Manager • Council Member/City Director • Public Safety • City Attorney
Clerk/Recorder/Treasurer • Technology**

Members - Login here

Email

Password

[Can't access your account?](#)

Stay signed in

Existing subscribers will automatically migrate to their respective groups in the AML Communities ListServ—just follow these steps to set a new password!

- Visit <http://AMLCommunity.arml.org>
- Click the “sign in” button
- Click the “Can’t access your account?” link
- Follow the directions on the screen!



2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Live from League Campus | January 13-15

With a focus on the convening of the 93rd General Assembly, the Arkansas Municipal League's 2021 Virtual Winter Conference will bring our membership together again in the digital space for three days of in-depth general sessions, certification training, continuing education, awards presentations and more. **And just like the 86th Annual Virtual Convention, there is no fee for the 2021 Virtual Winter Conference.**

What can you expect at #2021AMLWC?

Keynote Speaker: Rex Nelson

93rd General Assembly Issues of Interest

Continuing Education (3 hours)

City Government 101 Level 1 Voluntary Certification Training (5 core hours)

2020 Trendsetter City Awards

Volunteer Community of the Year Awards

Recognition of Certified Municipal Officials

Municipal officials and personnel can register now at www.arml.org/reg.

Deadline to register is Monday, January 11, 2021.

**Contact Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell at wvb@arml.org
for more information.**



NOW ENTERING: SMOOTH STREETS

Street Repair • Sewage Systems • Recycling Pickup

Great Cities Make a Great State.



greatcitiesgreatstate.com

If your city needs assistance with your asphalt overlay program, give us a call!



MCE McCLELLAND
CONSULTING
DESIGNED TO SERVE ENGINEERS, INC.

mce.us.com
Little Rock: 501.371.0272
Fayetteville: 479.443.2377
Ft. Smith: 479.434.5333

Meet Amanda Woodyard, clinical reviewer/LPN for the Arkansas Municipal League.



City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities at the Arkansas Municipal League?

Amanda Woodyard: I am a nurse for the Municipal Health Benefit Program. I pre-certify the inpatient hospitalizations. I case manage the bariatric program. I also do claims review once the claims have been received to make sure they are accurate and then send them on to be processed.

How long have you been working at the Municipal League? How did you get started?

I have worked for the League since Valentine's Day 2011, when I was recently engaged and new to the area.

How has the League changed since you started? What has stayed the same? The MHBP has gone through a lot of reconstructing, several directors, two remodels and has grown so much. Every bit of it has been for the best!

What is the biggest lesson you've learned working for the cities and towns of Arkansas?

I had no idea what it takes to make a city operate on a daily basis. There are so many jobs to do from a street worker to a police officer and so, so much more.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? Wake up each day knowing that you are going to make difference in the community. Some days, it might be something grand and others might be as simple as picking up trash on the road.

Where did you grow up? How has it changed? Stayed the same? I was born and raised in West Plains, Missouri. I moved to Arkansas for my husband. My hometown has grown so much, not only in people but businesses and job opportunities.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why? I would say, each time I go home I always used to stop at Dog N' Suds. It has since gone out of business, but I still dream about their chili dog and fries!

What is your favorite part about working for the Arkansas Municipal League and the cities and towns of Arkansas? I love being able to go to the convention and winter conference each year just so I can put a face to the members that I have talked to on the phone. 🗣️

IT in a Box Gold	IT in a Box Silver	IT in a Box Bronze																		
Save up to 51%	Save up to 51%	Save up to 63%																		
Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > 24x7 Helpdesk (onsite & remote) > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery > Records/Document Management, Email, & Microsoft Office > Video Archiving > Policy & Compliance > Website > Vendor Management and Procurement 	Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > 24x7 Helpdesk (remote) > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery > Vendor Management and Procurement 	Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery 																		
SIGN UP ONLINE & SAVE																				
Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$530</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$530	Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$259</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$259	Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$146</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$146
List price																				
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
\$1,030	\$530																			
List price																				
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
\$1,030	\$259																			
List price																				
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
\$1,030	\$146																			
AML members SAVE 51% the first year!																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Onboarding</th> <th>Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$261</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding	Monthly Fee	FREE	\$261	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Onboarding</th> <th>Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$126</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding	Monthly Fee	FREE	\$126	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Onboarding</th> <th>Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding	Monthly Fee	FREE	\$54						
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
FREE	\$261																			
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
FREE	\$126																			
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																			
FREE	\$54																			
Save on IT in a Box, sign up today, and let us handle your IT needs and risks.																				
https://sophicity.com/Signup-AML-ITinaBox.aspx																				
Dave Mims 770.670.6940 x110 dave@mims@sophicity.com www.sophicity.com	Chris Hartley 501.978.6106 chartley@arml.org www.arml.org																			

Meet Debra Hall, finance director for the city of Hope.

City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities at the city of Hope?



Debra Hall: I oversee all accounting functions, assist with budget and audit, and basically make sure all money coming in and going out is accounted for properly.

Why did you choose your profession? I made a career change from public accounting at a young age, really just for more money at that time (ha!), not fully understanding what I was getting myself into. So it has definitely chosen me over time.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge? My favorite aspect is the diversity of the people I work with and encounter. The biggest challenge is constantly reminding everyone of the laws and rules that are in place for everyone's protection.

What's your favorite spot in Hope? My current favorite spot in Hope is the walking trail at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana. It's a half-mile paved trail on campus. It's not secluded, so you feel very safe. It's surrounded by trees and grass, always plenty of squirrels, and I've even seen a deer there before. It's just a lovely place to go walking, and you can venture off onto other parts of campus if you want.

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job? A lot of people think of me as a secretarial-type person who pays bills and files papers, but the reality is that I'm a certified public accountant overseeing an \$8 million budget with a complicated payroll, multiple retirement systems, federal grants and ever-changing governmental accounting standards.

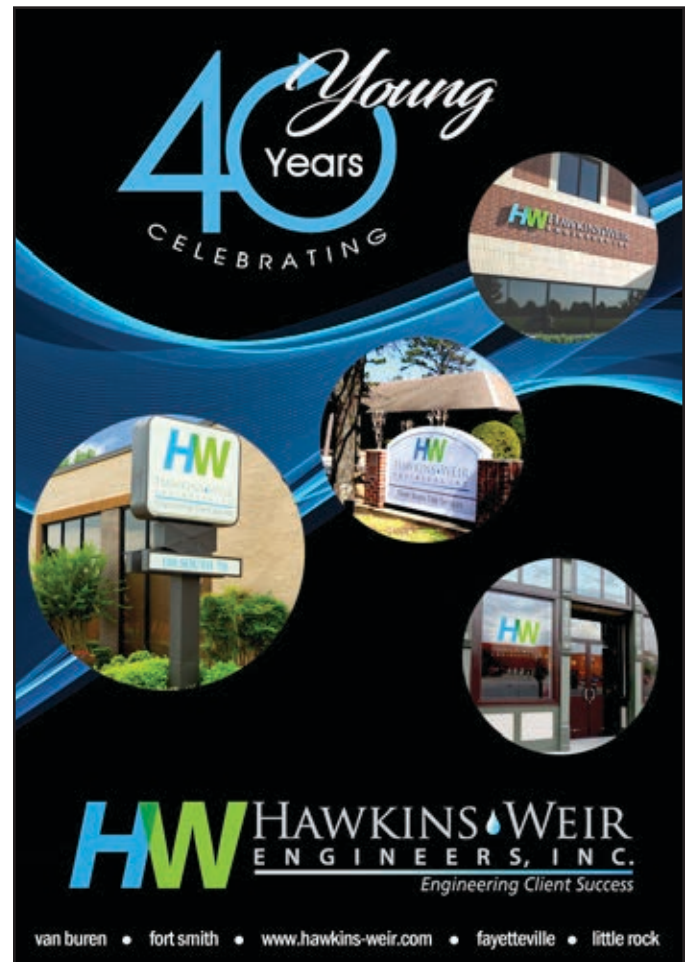
In what season does Hope shine the most? We shine during the Hope Watermelon Festival! Everyone comes together to make EVERYTHING watermelon. From decorating businesses to rolling out the red carpet for tourists, we work our butts off to make our city sparkle. Even this year, when COVID prevented us from having our annual festival, the organizers found a way to hold a virtual concert and other creative ways to keep the spirit of the festival alive.

What was your favorite subject in school? Math.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned by working for a city government? People don't so much care about facts; they just want what they want and think what they think.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job? Be kind to everyone, including yourself. Get and stay involved with the Arkansas Governmental Finance Officers Association and network with other finance directors around the state, keep up with regulations, and pay attention to everything around you.


What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Hope? The President Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site, Lake Huckabee and the downtown area to get a history lesson from the local shop owners. 🏛️



40 Years
CELEBRATING

HW HAWKINS WEIR
ENGINEERS, INC.
Engineering Client Success

van buren • fort smith • www.hawkins-weir.com • fayetteville • little rock



The deadline for enrollment in the Arkansas Municipal League 2021 Municipal Officials and Department Heads Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan is Dec. 31, 2020.

Contact Tammie Dodson at 501-537-3782, or email tdodson@arml.org.



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Single-family large-lot zoning is under attack by planners, housing advocates and social activists.

The zoning code, battered but still standing

By Jim von Tungeln

It has been almost 100 years—94 to be exact—since the Supreme Court of the United States said legal grace over a newborn concept being used by 400 American cities and towns. That would have been the zoning ordinance. It is a senior citizen among municipal tools now, old and worn but still ticking.

The zoning ordinance, now often called a “code,” shows the bruises from being kicked around for those many years. Despite them, it endures. Every few years, some guru or another announces its death. Gurus vanish, but the zoning code, with all its apparent faults and weaknesses, still limps along in most of Arkansas’ cities and towns. What current form does it take? Oddly, it looks very much like it always did, but like most humans who are reaching senior status, it is bigger, thicker and, at times, cantankerous.

Los Angeles adopted the first zoning code in America in 1908. It concentrated on creating residential districts that prohibited “nuisance” uses. New York City adopted the first comprehensive code in 1916. It addressed the concerns that new skyscrapers were blocking light and air from the streets. That code required buildings to be set back as they grew taller. This resulted in the familiar

“wedding cake” architecture that characterizes some views of the city to this date. It also affected areas like the city’s famous “garment district” when the owners of high-scale shops in Manhattan wanted to be separated from the factories that manufactured their goods.

Meanwhile, the concept of municipal zoning had not yet passed legal muster.

Most of us are aware of how the legalization of zoning came about in 1926. The Village of Euclid, Ohio, fearing an intrusion of industrial land use, adopted a comprehensive zoning plan. The targeted property owner claimed it presented an unlawful taking. The U.S. Supreme Court was about to agree when a Cincinnati attorney, Alfred Bettman, intervened on behalf of the city.

The court eventually ruled that the restrictions imposed on the property bore a rational relation to the health and safety of the community.

So here we are.

Our state statutes echo the permission to adopt zoning. Arkansas Code, Annotated § 14-56-416(a)(1) states in regard to the planning commission: “Following adoption and filing of the land use plan, the commission

may prepare for submission to the legislative body a recommended zoning ordinance for the entire area of the municipality.” This relationship between the plan and the code, i.e., plan first and regulate second, is the most often ignored aspect of municipal zoning. Attorneys tell us that planning commissions administering a zoning code not based upon a plan are courting trouble.

Once the plan is adopted, what form does the supporting zoning code take? The ones formed immediately after the *Euclid v. Ambler Realty Co.* case had a simple intent. Each parcel of land had a specific zoning designation. The intent was clear: Keep classes of land uses and classes of people away from one another.

Today, that strict separation of land uses is called, in honor of the famous legal opinion, “Euclidean Zoning.” That is not, incidentally, intended as a complimentary title. In fact, Euclidean zoning gets battered from every angle. Planners call it old fashioned, inflexible and a killer of creativity. Developers say it hinders growth by hindering them. Sociologists point out that it contributes to economic disparity. Most agree that zoning is the major cause of sprawl in America. This claim ignores the fact that Houston, the Queen Mother of sprawl in America, has no zoning, only strange tools that accomplish some of the same purposes. Euclidean zoning may have no fan base among professionals, but it seems to appeal to citizens.

Some of the claims against this type of zoning prove true. The obsession with the single-family home allocates the prime areas in a city’s planning area for low-density subdivisions marked by, yes, single-family homes. This can force low- and moderate-income families into areas far from commercial services, schools, hospitals and public transportation. As a result, some cities are currently eliminating the single-family district, allowing any platted residential lot to contain more than one housing unit. Stay tuned.

Another type of zoning, form-based, concentrates more on a building’s form—size, bulk and height, for example—more than its use. This form of zoning also stresses quality of design, walkability and regard for the physical setting. The degree to which a building fits into its physical context is more important than whether it houses a flower shop or tobacco store. The basic concepts of this type of zoning are growing in popularity.

A concept now familiar to most cities and towns is transactional zoning. This includes what most cities refer to as the planned-unit development, or development based on a bilateral agreement between the developer and the city. The developer achieves relief from stifling zoning regulations and the city achieves development that supports adopted plan policies and objectives. It is a complex approach, and its use may require the attention of a professional staff.

There is also a concept called performance zoning. It concentrates on the impact of zoning rather than strict separation of uses. Its complicated and exacting standards limit its use. Hybrid zoning codes employ some of the impacts of each type mentioned above. It seeks to balance the impact of zoning and the unique characteristics of the specific city. It may use elements of all the styles mentioned above along with other, less common approaches.

Each form of zoning poses individual benefits and weaknesses. In the end, the form of the code should be set by the characteristics of the city or town. Modern word-processing software makes it simple for a community of 5,000 to, by “finding and replacing,” create and adopt a code used by a city of 20,000. This approach can create additional damage if the city of 20,000 copied the code from a city of 40,000. One can only imagine the joyful interlude of the Law of Unintended Consequences should it turn out that the city of 40,000 had been amiss in its attention to detail.

In reality, a small community will probably enact zoning to meet a particular problem or two. In such a case, zoning may be more protective than proactive, thus simple. This works well for a city or town too small to employ professional staff.

A city that is faced with sudden growth but is landlocked by other cities or topography faces a particularly troublesome situation. Its plan and supporting codes must concentrate on “growing upwards instead of outwards.” Existing residents often do not take kindly to this approach. As a planner in the state once observed, “Often, the last family moving into a city wants to be the last family to ever move there.”

On the other end of the space dilemma is the city or town that has ample land for growth. But it may lack the financial resources necessary to maintain the street and utility systems mandated by such growth (or sprawl if you choose).

In the end, choose the tools that fit your city or town. The elements that should form a city’s plans and development regulations may seem endless, but one caution stands above all others. That is the need to enforce whatever form the regulations may take. Planners increasingly warn against adopting regulations the city cannot enforce fairly and constantly.

Planning, regulating and enforcing constitute the three-legged stool from which to meet the future. Strive to keep them in balance.



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. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at 501-944-3649. His email is uplan@swbell.net.



Community canvas: Murals improve our cities and towns

By Emily Cooper Yates

Public murals are exciting and colorful pieces of art, and they can also be community development tools. Murals can serve as part of a community’s marketing strategy. They allow cities and towns to display what makes them unique and illustrate their story. Drab walls turned into vibrant pieces stop people in their tracks, encourage them to take and share selfies, and create a lasting memory associated with your city.

Murals also serve as a catalyst for creative placemaking, a process in community development in which community members utilize arts and culture to implement change and improve quality of life. Murals unite neighbors, empower local artists and instill excitement and pride among citizens.

Murals are popping up in cities and towns across Arkansas, and not just in major metropolitan areas. The Fort Smith nonprofit 64.6 Downtown hosts an annual event called The Unexpected, which highlights the installation of murals from world-renowned artists. Arkansas mural artist Jason White painted murals with the theme of unity in Newport and Cabot and even assisted in the development of an “art alley” in his hometown of Searcy.

With the creation of a mural class offered at Lyon College that mobilizes student artists, murals

are creating a buzz in Batesville. The city has seen an increase in tourism as a result of the murals. “People come to Batesville to see the murals,” Mayor Rick Elumbaugh says. “This a huge asset for our upcoming bicentennial celebration.”

The idea of painting a large public mural can be overwhelming. Misti Staley, mural workshop leader for the Thrive Center in Helena-West Helena, offers the following pieces of advice:

1. Find and prepare your canvas

One of the first steps when planning a mural is to determine a location. Ideally, it is a high-visibility spot so everyone in town and visitors can see it. Also consider the composition of your “canvas.” The wall’s surface will determine the time, effort and materials required for the project. For example, rustic walls made of exposed brick have deep grout lines, requiring more time and paint to cover.

After picking a location, you will need to prep and prime the wall for painting. The wall needs to be as clean as possible to extend the life of the mural. Scrape off old paint—consider power washing—and then coat the wall in primer. This work can be done with the help of your team of artists or volunteers.



2. Assemble your artists and volunteers

Michelangelo did not complete the Sistine Chapel ceiling on his own! However, your mural team does not have to include Italy's most skilled renaissance painters. Like with any community project, utilize your assets and partnerships. Public schools and colleges are full of aspiring artists. The Thrive Center, for example, offers youth programming that encourages students in Phillips County to design and paint their own murals. Staley says children as young as 8 years old can contribute directly to the mural in some way. Younger painters can work on base coats and older painters can focus on fine lines and details. Break the work into segments by assigning afterschool shifts for volunteers.

3. Determine your medium

Creating a masterpiece requires the correct set of materials and tools. The mural supply list includes paint brushes, exterior house paint, drop cloths and smocks, among other things. Staley specifically recommends 1.5- to 2-inch angled brushes to shape clean edges and a 2-in-1 primer/paint for thick coats of paint. These materials can be inexpensive and found at a local home improvement store. However, take care of your tools



Thrive Design Crew students working on the mural.

to extend their use. At the end of each day, wash your brushes and correctly store your cans of paint.

Murals are more than art. They are community assets that help move our cities and towns forward. Like any major endeavor, work with a team and take it step by step. Creative community projects unite residents and celebrate the arts. How will you color your community?

To learn more about how to develop a mural in your community, contact Staley at mististaley@gmail.com. For more information about the Thrive Center, visit thrivecenter.org.



Emily Cooper Yates is the project coordinator for the University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED). Learn more about CCED at www.uca.edu/cced.

Flu shots more important than ever this year

By Robert Hopkins Jr., M.D.

The unique challenges of this flu season, particularly with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, make it extremely important to get a flu shot this year.

Influenza virus, which causes the seasonal flu, can cause serious respiratory illness. COVID is also a serious respiratory illness. But the two diseases are not the same thing. They are caused by different viruses, and our ability to stop each of them with modern medicine is very different.

While you're not any more likely to catch the flu this year, health officials worry about both diseases spreading at the same time. So it's important to understand how to protect yourself and stay healthy.

Stopping the spread

You've likely heard many times now about the importance of wearing a mask in public, social distancing and washing your hands frequently. These are all actions we can take to help stop the spread of COVID, and people need to continue doing these things. Less germs means less disease, so each of these actions will also be helpful in stopping the spread of the flu.

However, nothing offers as much protection as being vaccinated. Each day we get closer to being able to vaccinate everyone against COVID. For influenza, we already can and should! The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends influenza vaccination for everyone over the age of 6 months. The flu shot won't protect you from COVID, but within two weeks will help protect you from influenza. If you haven't already, you should get immunized as soon as possible.

Safety of flu shots

The flu shot cannot give you the flu. Also, it will not increase your chances of catching COVID.

Influenza vaccine helps you by stimulating your immune system to be ready to respond immediately and fight off the strains of influenza virus that are most likely to be spreading in our cities and towns this year.

How and where you get the shot is up to you. Many employers offer it for their employees. Most pharmacies allow anyone to walk in and get the shot. Medical offices

usually are able to vaccinate patients who are there for preventive care and/or illness. This year specifically, many drive-up sites are being set up by different organizations to give flu shots.

Regardless of how you get a flu shot, all providers have been given guidelines on how to do so safely so that they are not spreading COVID at the same time. This includes protective equipment for the providers, and requirements of masks and distancing for those waiting to get a flu shot. The priority for everyone is patient safety.

If you get sick

Should you develop symptoms this flu season, it will be very important to talk to your health care provider right away, whether you got vaccinated or not. A stuffy nose and cough may be nothing more than a common cold. But a high fever or chills could indicate something more serious.

The tricky thing is, we've seen that COVID can look very different in different people. Some cases have been described as "flu-like," which might be confusing. Meanwhile, many people underestimate the seriousness of the flu, which can prove fatal.

It's important to seek a professional opinion through a regular appointment, emergency care or an online health consultation. Drive-up sites can help determine the identity and severity of your illness by testing. In fact, the CDC has now begun distributing tests that check for both COVID and influenza simultaneously.

Once identified, the flu can be treated. We have antiviral medications that help defeat the virus while providing some relief from symptoms. However, researchers are still looking for treatments to consistently help people beat COVID.

To quote an old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The best defense against the flu is to get vaccinated against it beforehand.



Robert H. Hopkins Jr., M.D., is the director of the General Internal Medicine Division and a professor of internal medicine and pediatrics in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science.

10 tips to jump-start your safety program

By Allen Green, League staff

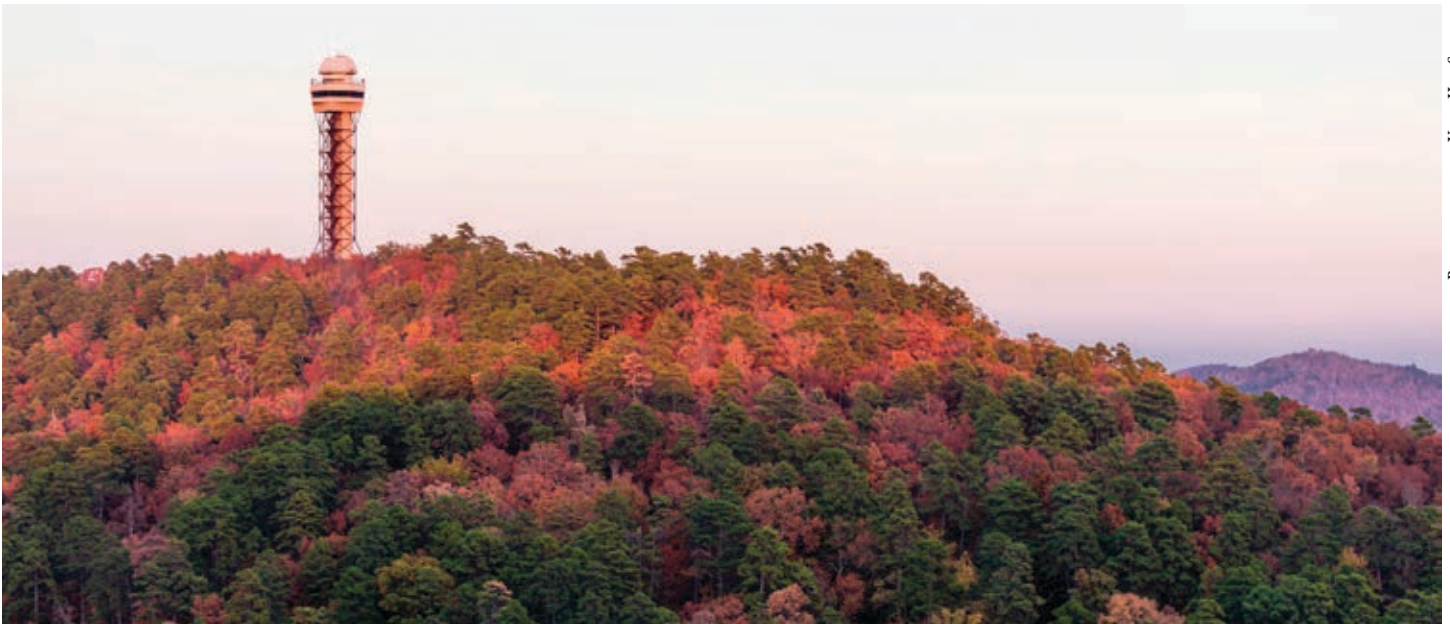
If you are considering implementing a safety program or supplementing your existing program, follow these simple steps to build a solid platform from which to take on some of the more structured actions you may want to include in your program later.

1. **Establish health and safety as a core value, not just another priority.** While priorities can change on a whim, values do not. Tell your employees that making sure they finish the day safe and injury free is the only way you do business. Assure them that you will work with them to find and correct any hazards that could injure them or make them sick.
2. **Lead by example.** You must practice what you preach. Remember that your actions will speak far louder than your words. Practice safe behaviors yourself, such as wearing PPE, and make safety part of your daily conversations with workers.
3. **Implement a reporting system.** Develop and communicate a simple procedure for workers to report any injuries, illnesses, incidents, hazards, or health and safety concerns without fear of retaliation. Include an option for anonymous reporting. Be sure to include timing and who the report must go to. Make it convenient for field employees and others working remotely to report by establishing a call-in number or the ability to text in a report. Mobile apps can work great as well.
4. **Provide training.** Train workers on how to identify and control hazards in the workplace, as well as how to report injuries, illnesses and near misses. Don't assume that everyone knows this. Establishing a mentoring program for new or transferred workers is also very beneficial.
5. **Conduct regular inspections of work areas.** Schedule regular safety audits and, when possible, participate with the employees conducting them. Ask them to identify any activities, equipment or materials that are potential safety hazards. Create and use checklists, specific to your work areas, to help identify potential problems and standardize the audits.
6. **Collect hazard control ideas.** Ask employees for ideas on safety improvements and follow up on their suggestions. Keep them involved in the process. Provide time during work hours to collaborate and discuss potential solutions.
7. **Implement hazard controls.** Assign employees the task of selecting, implementing and evaluating the solutions they come up with. This level of participation and responsibility encourages full buy-in into the safety culture.
8. **Address emergencies.** Identify and plan for foreseeable emergencies. Discuss various scenarios (severe weather, fire, etc.) and develop instructions on what to do in each case. Meet regularly to discuss and develop these procedures and post them in a visible location in the workplace. Schedule and conduct drills periodically to practice what you plan. Utilize the drills as coaching moments, feedback opportunities and to tweak your written plan.
9. **Seek input on workplace changes and continuous improvement.** Before making significant changes to the workplace, work organization, equipment or materials, consult with workers to identify potential safety or health issues. Involving employees in safety-related decisions helps build and strengthen the safety culture.
10. **Make improvements to the program.** Set aside a regular time to discuss safety and health issues, with the goal of identifying ways to improve the program. Annual or semi-annual reviews of policies, programs and procedures is also beneficial to continuous improvement and keeping your safety program moving forward. These reviews are also an additional opportunity to involve employees in the safety process.

While the business of safety can be quite technical at times, in its simplest form, safety is actively caring about others. It is important to have a safety program built around personal values and the unique culture of your organization. People are the most important element of any safety program. The most well-written policies will not protect employees if they are not trained to follow them. To have an effective safety program, employees should be involved in process.



Allen Green is the League's loss control liaison. Contact Allen at 501-374-3484, ext. 122, or email him at agreen@arml.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY VISIT HOT SPRINGS

Hot Springs' Mountain Tower glows in evening sunlight that cascades across a canopy cover undergoing the transition from summer to fall colors.

Natural state, natural beauty

By Allen Bates

We have a variety of reasons to enjoy fall in The Natural State. Maybe you are an outdoors person who enjoys getting out early on cool fall mornings, or you might prefer to take a scenic drive to admire the fall foliage along one of Arkansas' many winding back roads. Starting in late September and running through November, the beautiful Arkansas fall foliage can be enjoyed as a wave of peak colors makes its way from the northern to the southern portions of the state.

The science behind the beauty

Many factors contribute to how brilliant the foliage color will be in a given year, but the shorter span of daylight that comes with fall days begins the process. Chlorophyll is responsible for the green color we see in leaves throughout the summer. Once the shorter days arrive, and the production of chlorophyll via photosynthesis slows, the true hidden leaf colors are exposed. Colder weather can help promote the process of fall foliage color changes, but if the weather is too cold or below freezing, it can cause leaves to die early in the season. For ideal fall colors, there needs to be a moist early growing season, a dry late summer and an early fall with warm, sunny days and cool nights.

There are many native Arkansas tree varieties with outstanding fall color to admire. Black tupelo, also known as blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), is the earliest of



Mountain biking is an adventurous way to undertake a fall foliage sightseeing tour.

our native trees to turn color in the fall. It does so at a slow pace, progressing over a six-week period. In the beginning, only a few leaves turn a bright red. By early October, however, the tree is a forest standout. Blackgum grows to be 60 feet tall and is usually less than 25 feet across its crown. It has a single, straight trunk with branches that emerge at right angles.

Named for its gray shaggy bark, the Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) can reach up to 100 feet in height and has an 8- to 15-inch compound leaf. It produces lots of yellow fall color. American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), known for its unique star-shaped leaves and abundance of fruit, has outstanding yellow, red and purple fall colors. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is the most abundant tree in eastern North America and has one of the most incredible displays of color. It features not only red fall leaves, as its name implies, but can also have yellow and orange fall colors. Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*) and Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) are two of the most common larger trees with fall color. They usually have brown to red foliage with the Northern red oak offering a more pronounced red color.

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a small understory tree, usually around 25 feet in height. Although it is small in size, it stands out with its beautiful fall color with wonderful reddish-purple shades. Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), rarely reaching 25 feet tall, is more like a large shrub. It stands out along roadways with its eye-catching multiple colors that range from orange to red to deep purple.

Colorful destinations

There are many ways to get out and explore The Natural State's native beauty. I'm a little partial to central Arkansas, having been born in Hot Springs and raised near the Ouachita National Forest. Hot Springs and the surrounding areas have abundant ways to get out and explore nature, whether it's by walking, biking or by automobile. Here are a few options to consider for your fall color outing:

- The City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department maintains 20 parks, along with the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, a 4.2-mile multi-purpose walking and biking trail. The Greenway Trail begins in the historic downtown area and goes south along the Hot Springs Creek, with lots of native trees to enjoy along the way.
- Northwoods Trails, located just north of downtown Hot Springs, offers world-class mountain biking. This 2,000-acre area has 17 miles of biking and walking trails for a variety of skill levels.



Hot Springs National Park has several excellent locations that provide panoramic views of changing fall foliage.

- The newly constructed Pullman Trail is a natural surface trail connecting downtown Hot Springs to the Northwoods Trails. At nearly a mile long, it is the first biking trail in Hot Springs to include land owned by the Hot Springs National Park Service. Although this trail may be a challenge for a beginner biker, an experienced rider can enjoy Pullman Trail and its fall beauty.
- If an automobile is your favorite way to get out and view the fall colors, then a trek north up scenic Highway 7 to the Ouachita National Forest is a must. This 406,000-acre district of the Ouachita Forest has many opportunities to enjoy fall foliage. The Jessieville Visitor Center, located at 8607 Highway 7 North, is a great place to start and get maps and information on trails for mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and scenic driving areas.
- For those who want to get off the beaten path, the Winona Scenic Drive auto tour is amazing. This 27-mile gravel tour has many spectacular vista areas with turnouts to stop and take pictures. This trail begins 6.1 miles north of the Jessieville Visitor Center. Be sure to get a map before you take the tour, and note that it is not paved.

For more information on the Ouachita National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita. For more information on Hot Springs' parks and trails, visit www.cityhs.net/parks. And for more information on the Northwoods Trails, visit www.northwoodstrails.org.



Allen Bates is the urban forester for the city of Hot Springs and is an ISA Certified Arborist and an ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor. Contact Allen at 501-651-773 or at abates@cityhs.net.



PHOTOS COURTESY MCCLELLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Asphalt overlays, like these examples from Little Rock, can be a cost-effective way to extend the life of city streets.

Pavement preservation: A proactive approach

By Jeremy Waits

Asphalt overlay programs have been a go-to option for many cities and towns as a form of pavement preservation. New pavement appeals to motorists. The color, the smell and the comfortable ride offer a feeling of security on the road. Pavement preservation involves applying a series of lower-cost treatments every few years to a road segment to stop further deterioration. If the pavement surface and substrate have not significantly deteriorated, relatively inexpensive treatments can keep water out of the pavement, prevent oxidation of the asphalt and maintain good skid resistance. An added benefit is that it keeps our streets looking attractive.

All roads begin to deteriorate as soon as they are built because they are subjected to water, freeze-thaw cycles, solar radiation, as well as varying traffic loads. Pavement performs well under loads until a particular

point in its life span, and then it deteriorates rapidly and eventually fails. The road is then either rehabilitated or completely reconstructed.

Pavement preservation programs have proven to be very cost effective. Studies have found that a dollar spent on pavement preservation can save between \$6 and \$10 in future rehabilitation costs. The ability to assess issues before they become problematic is key to avoid more costly fixes to a network. According to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, overlaying two lanes that are approximately 11-12 feet wide and 2 inches deep would cost an estimated \$100,000 per lane mile. Although the up-front costs may seem higher than other preventative maintenance costs, the overlay can add eight to 15 years to the life of the existing pavement if done properly. Most overlays require cold milling, which could add about \$25,000 to the initial estimate.



In order to get ahead of a deteriorating network, cities and towns should perform an assessment of their streets to determine what method of pavement preservation would be best suited for each individual instance. A pavement condition index (PCI) assigns a numerical value from zero to 100 to a street's general condition, with zero being the worst possible condition and 100 being the best possible condition. The PCI is widely used to measure the performance of roadway infrastructure and helps determine what method of pavement preservation would be best for any given project.

Why use a proactive approach such as pavement preservation? It can reduce or eliminate the need for costly, time-consuming rehabilitation or reconstruction of streets that have reached or exceeded their useful lives. Pavement preservation can limit traffic disruptions where there may be only one lane available. It can also reduce work zone dangers, because the maintenance treatments can be applied more quickly than full reconstruction.

Asphalt overlay programs help extend the life of our roadway networks. They can give cities a cost-effective way to stay ahead of the failure curve.



Jeremy Waits is a project designer in MCE's Transportation Department in our Little Rock office. Contact Jeremy by phone at 501-371-0272, or email him at jwaits@mce.us.com.

Two months left to meet Clearinghouse annual query requirements

If an employer has not yet conducted queries in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse on any CDL drivers they employ, time is running out. The deadline to meet the annual requirement is January 5, 2021 (49 CFR § 382.701). This annual requirement is tracked on a rolling 12-month basis. For instance, if an employer conducts a query of a CDL driver on October 19, 2020, the employer will not need to query that driver again until October 19, 2021.

Employers must purchase a query plan to ensure they and their designated consortia/third party administrators can conduct queries on prospective and current drivers. If you haven't done this, be sure to register for the Clearinghouse and conduct your annual queries today. To get started, go to clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov.

House cancels marijuana vote

On September 17, the National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association (NDASA) announced that the vote on the MORE Act, which would legalize marijuana at the federal level was cancelled by the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act, commonly referred to as the MORE Act, has been supported previously by House leadership. NDASA, in collaboration with other organizations including the American Trucking Associations, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, the National Safety Council and many others, had actively opposed this legislation.

NDASA Chairman James A. Greer stated, "Legalization of marijuana before science has answered the questions regarding impairment and other health-related issues is the wrong approach. Passage of the MORE Act as written would have restricted the ability of the U.S. Department of Transportation from testing marijuana use by truck drivers, airline pilots, bus drivers and others. Simply put, it would have jeopardized public safety."

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



NOW ENTERING: JOB OPPORTUNITIES.
Economic Development • Street Construction • Industrial Parks

Great Cities Make a Great State.

greatcitiesgreatstate.com

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT

ametrucks.com

501-425-1567

Daniel Ellison



LOOK

Sourcewell

Formerly NJPA

contracts on
Refuse Trucks,
Knuckle Boom Trucks
and Refuse Carts.



Providing quality refuse and recycling equipment to municipalities.
Municipal leasing options with Source**well**.



2019/2020 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	\$5.662	\$6.789	\$0.246	\$0.083	\$2.145	\$2.145
February	\$5.675	\$6.340	\$0.096	\$0.118	\$1.087	\$1.087
March	\$5.085	\$5.758	\$0.438	\$0.101	\$1.087	\$1.087
April	\$5.401	\$6.088	\$0.338	\$0.064	\$1.085	\$0.924
May	\$5.811	\$5.943	\$0.227	\$0.034	\$1.086	\$0.924
June	\$6.017	\$5.605	\$0.209	\$0.030	\$1.088	\$0.924
July	\$5.801	\$6.094	\$0.182	\$0.022	\$2.959	\$2.795
August	\$5.990	\$6.478	\$0.114	\$0	\$0.924	\$1.542
September	\$5.899	\$6.378	\$0.155	\$0.021	\$1.087	\$0.893
October	\$5.654		\$0.124		\$1.087	
November	\$5.652		\$0.064		\$1.087	
December	\$5.775		\$0.069		\$1.087	
Total Year	\$68.422	\$55.474	\$2.261	\$0.473	\$15.810	\$12.323

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	\$10,702,464.91	\$12,833,880.33	\$464,101.95	\$156,199.64	*\$4,054,867.57	* \$4,054,970.57
February	\$10,728,532.32	\$11,984,924.80	\$181,468.75	\$223,221.26	\$2,055,501.82	\$2,055,049.55
March	\$9,611,591.51	\$10,883,990.67	\$828,851.20	\$191,150.53	\$2,055,055.19	\$2,055,396.67
April	\$10,209,400.74	\$11,509,342.85	\$638,095.99	\$120,647.65	\$2,051,915.02	\$1,747,446.98
May	\$10,985,547.22	\$11,233,895.61	\$428,651.27	\$63,817.15	\$2,052,767.40	\$1,747,094.76
June	\$11,374,227.00	\$10,595,347.60	\$395,730.25	\$57,224.47	\$2,056,915.45	\$1,747,446.98
July	\$10,966,523.76	\$11,520,392.64	\$343,609.83	\$41,735.92	** \$5,592,768.93	*** \$5,284,317.00
August	\$11,322,293.50	\$12,263,537.56	\$214,617.36	\$0	\$1,746,588.81	\$2,919,346.12
September	\$11,150,912.22	\$12,057,206.89	\$292,391.02	\$39,675.17	\$2,055,099.92	\$1,688,464.32
October	\$10,687,834.00		\$235,240.93		\$2,055,035.24	
November	\$10,684,885.09		\$121,344.58		\$2,055,035.24	
December	\$10,916,904.58		\$130,060.08		\$2,054,709.31	
Total Year	\$129,341,116.85	\$104,882,518.95	\$4,274,163.21	\$893,671.79	\$29,886,259.90	\$23,299,532.95

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

**Includes \$3,513,475.89 supplemental for July 2019

*** Includes \$3,513,475.64 supplemental for July 2020

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2020 with 2019 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$62,951,910	\$59,187,540	\$54,023,046	\$49,660,885	\$116,974,957	\$108,848,426	\$137,620	\$188,294
February	\$73,128,305	\$66,363,635	\$61,276,755	\$55,082,773	\$134,405,060	\$121,446,409	\$151,340	\$265,350
March	\$57,761,974	\$55,016,953	\$49,863,364	\$49,926,480	\$107,625,338	\$104,943,433	\$140,860	\$241,046
April	\$58,720,966	\$53,915,385	\$50,676,002	\$45,679,915	\$109,396,969	\$99,595,300	\$173,069	\$239,875
May	\$64,061,809	\$61,136,496	\$55,167,274	\$51,962,167	\$118,762,027	\$113,098,664	\$51,758	\$233,250
June	\$61,816,632	\$63,455,242	\$54,700,218	\$53,477,656	\$120,220,830	\$116,932,898	\$37,445	\$199,380
July	\$66,569,122	\$62,196,778	\$58,404,198	\$52,242,794	\$127,921,569	\$114,439,573	\$27,240	\$239,855
August	\$69,810,263	\$63,103,397	\$61,352,447	\$53,989,906	\$132,096,586	\$117,093,303	\$22,963	\$229,107
September	\$69,731,104	\$63,071,625	\$62,286,322	\$54,693,037	\$132,017,426	\$117,764,662	\$14,982	\$213,728
October	\$67,795,513	\$64,934,499	\$60,898,642	\$55,729,333	\$128,694,156	\$120,663,833	\$13,552	\$214,922
November		\$62,765,968		\$54,501,529		\$117,267,498		\$182,403
December		\$62,102,384		\$54,327,357		\$116,429,741		\$184,380
Total	\$652,347,600	\$737,249,904	\$568,648,269	\$631,273,834	\$1,228,114,917	\$1,368,523,738	\$770,828	\$2,631,590
Averages	\$65,234,760	\$61,437,492	\$56,864,827	\$52,606,153	\$122,811,492	\$114,043,645	\$77,083	\$219,299

October 2020 Municipal Levy Receipts and October 2020 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2019 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garfield	18,471.16	11,887.50	Mountain Home	608,482.57	575,275.14	COUNTY SALES AND USE AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	
Alexander	112,819.53	119,554.98	1,858.13	4,904.85	Mountain View	194,159.20	185,109.17	Arkansas County	322,823.66	
Alma	251,526.39	241,703.38	Gassville	22,150.38	21,427.16	Mountainburg	18,695.09	12,951.15	Ashley County	240,209.77
Almyra	3,203.69	3,191.58	Gentry	121,135.03	100,127.07	Mulberry	32,069.05	29,870.49	Crossett	58,456.23
Alpena	7,644.76	7,185.30	Gilbert	1,585.95	893.21	Murfreesboro	37,043.71	35,727.24	Fountain Hill	1,857.61
Altheimer	3,819.95	3,725.34	Gillett	11,732.44	14,201.70	Nashville	119,601.15	126,473.16	Hamburg	30,326.76
Altus	7,153.91	6,664.30	Gillham	5,180.21	4,879.27	Newport	215,698.06	190,733.29	Montrose	3,757.67
Amity	15,597.03	13,159.81	Gilmore	4,564.49	471.16	Norfolk	8,018.40	3,606.66	Parkdale	2,940.33
Anthonyville	1,403.24	1,289.67	Glenwood	87,741.83	71,330.17	Norman	4,365.52	3,884.22	Portland	4,564.41
Arkadelphia	413,737.59	199,117.19	Goshen	30,114.92	12,058.71	North Little Rock	3,049,347.22	3,197,128.62	Wilmot	5,838.18
Ash Flat	106,825.30	101,503.33	Gosnell	18,347.61	16,087.40	Oak Grove	1,077.03	998.10	Baxter County	573,596.06
Ashdown	160,094.37	146,771.42	Gould	13,914.98	12,837.20	Oak Grove Heights	11,692.61	8,036.35	Big Flat	1,736.49
Atkins	69,649.53	72,149.08	Grady	4,323.13	4,287.74	Ola	16,716.80	18,975.54	Briarcliff	3,940.49
Augusta	26,236.08	28,603.68	Gravette	99,905.79	97,240.09	Oppelo	3,704.11	2,686.57	Cotter	16,196.09
Austin	45,665.38	37,430.55	Green Forest	133,602.86	122,670.75	Osceola	110,430.29	87,187.87	Gassville	34,696.36
Avoca	10,605.38	8,059.63	Greenbrier	283,977.15	247,580.37	Oxford	3,031.66	2,219.03	Lakeview	12,372.47
Bald Knob	61,918.20	54,671.97	Greenland	38,961.20	34,555.43	Ozark	153,830.28	197,133.20	Mountain Home	207,844.20
Barling	69,643.76	66,840.89	Greenwood	252,762.99	225,132.11	Palestine	29,797.62	33,572.20	Norfolk	8,532.16
Batesville	680,935.77	699,022.32	Greers Ferry	27,537.06	23,130.36	Pangburn	9,840.27	7,850.36	Salesville	7,513.65
Bauxite	15,717.78	19,012.07	Guion	105.97	2,728.58	Paragould	346,695.84	364,299.06	Benton County	985,517.86
Bay	10,317.56	8,740.33	Gum Springs	440.96	317.58	Paris	82,918.94	77,099.94	Avoca	11,320.59
Bearden	12,892.24	13,526.40	Gurdon	28,164.77	24,589.24	Patmos	816.47	641.49	Bella Vista	615,348.41
Beebe	141,636.81	145,201.71	Guy	7,301.71	6,758.43	Patterson	1,007.64	1,301.17	Bentonville	818,910.29
Beehiveville	137.74	130.74	Hackett	10,275.57	6,414.73	Pea Ridge	86,467.43	73,313.92	Bethel Heights	55,025.50
Bella Vista	488,732.37	195,442.59	Hamburg	113,785.80	101,766.15	Perla	1,967.23	5,138.17	Cave Springs	44,795.21
Belleville	2,392.00	2,121.04	Hampton	7,893.29	7,413.07	Perryville	27,364.52	24,355.66	Centerton	220,728.35
Benton	1,732,137.93	1,615,387.32	Hardy	26,593.80	24,096.49	Piggott	71,281.18	68,484.56	Decatur	39,413.29
Bentonville	2,866,848.37	3,463,775.63	Harrisburg	73,442.50	61,883.34	Pine Bluff	1,462,041.54	1,406,902.77	Elm Springs	3,178.12
Berryville	271,660.00	291,924.73	Harrison	502,778.52	524,588.68	Pineville	3,365.01	2,274.79	Garfield	11,645.36
Bethel Heights	89,655.34	78,540.48	Hartford	5,422.90	4,753.89	Plainview	6,139.74	6,315.00	Gateway	9,395.16
Big Flat	380.44	377.67	Haskell	47,890.64	47,931.10	Pleasant Plains	12,518.32	10,531.46	Getway	79,452.93
Black Rock	7,134.48	8,572.86	Hatfield	5,878.52	4,680.37	Plumerville	11,707.86	14,757.72	Gravette	72,215.17
Blevins	4,266.54	4,822.38	Havana	3,982.97	2,776.32	Pocahontas	310,043.66	297,441.18	Highfill	13,281.40
Blue Mountain	304.19	148.26	Hazen	90,145.39	88,886.01	Portia	4,110.94	4,285.02	Little Flock	59,966.66
Blytheville	419,394.68	380,752.31	Heber Springs	178,605.67	160,496.31	Portland	9,800.76	7,738.46	Lowell	169,971.27
Bonanza	4,109.06	2,926.72	Hector	6,539.21	6,621.92	Pottsville	36,046.10	29,722.91	Pea Ridge	111,210.90
Bono	23,894.47	20,257.43	Helena-West Helena	271,213.17	259,074.62	Prairie Grove	173,180.70	146,105.00	Rogers	1,298,249.22
Booneville	128,925.77	116,469.68	Hermitage	6,080.74	6,221.90	Prescott	58,635.01	69,883.69	Siloam Springs	348,873.74
Bradford	17,846.05	14,487.37	Higginson	1,933.12	2,421.05	Pyatt	904.03	926.33	Springdale	151,992.87
Bradley	3,047.90	3,352.29	Highfill	23,796.24	76,076.74	Quitman	27,603.35	23,282.05	Springtown	2,018.22
Branch	2,133.06	2,086.48	Highland	33,466.08	27,903.04	Ravenden	3,338.60	2,670.29	Sulphur Springs	11,854.14
Briarcliff	1,638.00	1,577.97	Holly Grove	8,114.06	10,254.93	Rector	31,510.10	25,662.60	Boone County	455,608.34
Brinkley	186,437.98	183,944.72	Hope	200,780.54	196,890.49	Redfield	49,883.81	35,995.64	Alpena	4,807.66
Brookland	96,490.33	72,780.54	Horatio	7,362.79	7,389.34	Rison	15,406.65	15,489.90	Bellefonte	6,842.24
Bryant	1,330,458.18	1,243,458.18	Horseshoe Bend	31,754.58	28,771.61	Rockport	24,259.78	17,769.63	Berfman	6,618.18
Bull Shoals	43,054.67	32,291.56	Hot Springs	1,866,027.86	1,801,246.68	Roe	662.25	1,189.21	Diamond City	11,785.54
Cabot	932,824.31	850,397.23	Hoxie	22,693.77	18,258.81	Rogers	3,353,692.47	3,507,436.09	Everton	2,004.45
Caddo Valley	58,172.62	58,405.49	Hughes	7,442.41	6,750.24	Rose Bud	20,271.82	18,703.68	Harrison	195,064.26
Calico Rock	47,690.63	44,718.54	Humphrey	2,596.34	3,585.48	Rudy	12,319.70	8,307.60	Lead Hill	4,084.25
Camden	354,010.39	324,770.19	Huntington	4,257.26	3,518.57	Russellville	1,170,516.63	1,150,830.78	Omaha	2,547.00
Caraway	6,685.13	5,615.91	Huntsville	144,788.29	135,977.77	Salem	23,856.29	25,123.72	South Lead Hill	1,537.24
Carlisle	69,979.20	91,507.13	Imboden	10,969.24	8,736.43	Salesville	5,051.93	4,585.78	Valley Springs	2,758.00
Cash	2,565.06	2,704.66	Jacksonville	761,194.01	649,882.82	Scranton	5,639.88	4,940.11	Zinc	1,552.31
Cave City	27,760.68	20,882.14	Jasper	44,361.64	31,064.36	Searcy	918,963.57	779,826.58	Bradley County	142,261.91
Cave Springs	129,088.25	40,675.63	Jennette	299.19	131.54	Shannon Hills	13,169.87	11,387.50	Banks	1,098.48
Cedarville	9,321.84	7,103.61	Johnson	74,328.65	72,602.85	Sheridan	220,245.68	225,126.33	Hermitage	7,352.72
Centerton	362,622.82	270,022.41	Joiner	3,852.49	4,142.11	Sherrill	809.22	1,033.99	Warren	53,178.79
Charleston	35,159.74	31,545.74	Jonesboro	1,673,087.20	1,633,566.91	Sherwood	1,051,928.98	845,624.10	Calhoun County	130,306.61
Cherokee Village	23,242.20	21,981.89	Judsonia	13,641.94	12,566.84	Shirley	3,226.25	3,206.74	Hampton	36,935.56
Cherry Valley	NA	5,566.07	Junction City	8,250.61	7,189.80	Siloam Springs	755,116.13	682,406.64	Harrell	7,085.82
Chidester	3,285.56	3,152.58	Keokuk	5,062.55	6,036.86	Sparkman	4,789.30	4,202.03	Thornton	11,354.06
Clarendon	46,957.68	47,988.00	Keo	1,730.65	1,930.73	Springdale	2,965,035.53	2,838,652.20	Tinsman	1,506.42
Clarksville	405,334.16	421,042.85	Kibler	5,447.10	2,817.52	Springtown	624.15	119.44	Carroll County	219,626.37
Clinton	102,790.27	96,216.28	Kingsland	2,254.12	2,199.51	St. Charles	2,560.59	3,487.94	Beaver	804.02
Coal Hill	5,128.42	4,682.25	Lake City	14,233.57	13,240.08	St. Paul	241.21	NA	Blue Eye	241.21
Conway	2,926,046.10	2,786,270.66	Lake Village	85,079.81	85,795.20	Stamps	12,796.03	12,613.64	Chicot County	162,468.35
Corning	78,574.71	121,634.69	Lakeview	5,780.83	4,234.68	Star City	85,792.25	78,321.75	Dermott	29,581.59
Cotter	15,788.67	16,773.46	Lamar	21,916.53	20,982.99	Stephens	6,653.61	6,480.32	Eudora	23,233.17
Cotton Plant	3,433.48	3,383.56	Lead Hill	7,168.04	5,654.86	Strong	11,066.62	9,605.11	Lake Village	26,366.42
Cove	16,495.76	11,789.39	Leopanto	35,563.75	30,179.41	Stuttgart	607,433.77	666,426.18	Clark County	502,625.18
Crawfordsville	9,724.57	8,784.87	Leslie	7,837.60	6,219.28	Sulphur Springs	2,532.80	1,860.45	Clay County	99,373.23
Crossett	150,407.05	161,493.98	Leslieville	9,680.37	11,078.19	Summit	2,933.99	6,608.88	Corning	26,823.07
Damascus	8,264.94	9,165.77	Lincoln	48,354.72	48,232.47	Sunset	9,566.73	6,759.07	Datto	1,191.43
Danville	45,899.59	41,014.00	Little Flock	12,584.14	12,278.87	Swifton	5,522.20	4,530.71	Greenway	2,490.09
Dardanelle	175,565.83	160,994.83	Little Rock	6,878,149.54	6,893,256.43	Taylor	11,827.66	10,420.48	Knobel	3,419.40
Decatur	19,182.95	23,074.26	Lockesburg	6,418.90	4,805.85	Texarkana	488,409.76	453,728.67	McDougal	2,216.06
Delight	5,269.49	4,973.75	Lonoke	248,781.02	215,603.63	Texarkana Special	219,993.45	198,197.07	Nimmons	822.09
De Queen	129,352.38	139,983.42	Lowell	687,761.89	365,719.19	Thornton	2,183.64	1,133.51	Peach Orchard	1,608.43
Dermott	37,646.23	4,660.23	Luxora	4,660.23	2,641.20	Tontitown	340,517.50	271,860.91	Piggott	30,572.10
Des Arc	71,382.12	71,581.06	Madison	1,434.22	1,613.03	Trumann	179,848.40	157,241.65	Pollard	2,644.98
DeValis Bluff	15,696.31	15,478.60	Magazine	15,848.38	12,161.92	Tuckerman	16,271.48	12,333.99	Rector	15,703.05
DeWitt	178,183.45	173,620.53	Magnolia	566,520.91	542,893.12	Turrell	4,708.12	4,425.09	St. Francis	2,978.58
Diamond City	3,427.44	3,528.53	Malvern	324,119.35	336,148.47	Tyronza	3,290.18	3,426.02	Success	1,775.24
Diaz	3,772.91	5,828.65	Mammoth Spring	9,541.71	7,106.32	Van Buren	560,566.25	728,900.82	Cleburne County	432,155.81
Dierks	28,701.58	12,550.18	Manila	38,459.60	37,436.79	Vandervoort	475.55	527.43	Concord	3,208.34
Dover	46,148.41	24,005.93	Mansfield	83,036.48	36,584.65	Vilonia				

Caraway	25,569.79	24,315.93	Cave City	2,438.94	2,426.55	Birdsong	490.17	498.02	Waldron	40,706.48	30,084.72
Cash	6,837.27	6,501.99	Cushman	6,804.94	6,770.38	Blytheville	186,742.55	189,732.27	Searcy County	93,262.68	73,946.03
Egypt	2,239.11	2,129.31	Magness	3,041.15	3,025.70	Burdette	2,283.47	2,320.03	Big Flat	9.12	7.23
Jonesboro	1,344,722.88	1,278,722.03	Moorefied	2,062.56	2,052.08	Dell	2,666.04	2,708.73	Gilbert	255.43	202.52
Lake City	41,623.37	39,582.30	Newark	17,704.90	17,614.98	Dyess	4,901.69	4,980.17	Leslie	4,022.97	3,189.73
Monette	30,008.00	28,536.00	Oil Trough	3,914.35	3,894.43	Etowah	4,196.33	4,263.51	Marshall	12,360.83	9,800.64
Crawford County	849,321.15	772,788.96	Pleasant Plains	5,254.26	5,227.57	Gosnell	42,417.58	43,096.68	Pindall	1,021.71	810.09
Alma	61,809.67	56,240.01	Southside	58,730.29	58,432.00	Joiner	6,886.28	6,996.53	St. Joe	1,204.15	954.75
Cedarville	15,900.11	14,467.35	Sulphur Rock	6,865.16	6,830.31	Keiser	9,074.11	9,219.38	Sebastian County	904,964.67	862,486.89
Chester	1,813.57	1,650.15	Izard County	52,841.39	54,769.39	Leachville	23,827.01	24,208.48	Barling	82,709.43	78,827.17
Dyer	9,991.75	9,091.39	Jackson County	307,774.10	263,900.13	Luxora	14,083.40	14,308.87	Bonanza	10,229.71	9,749.54
Kibler	10,961.26	9,973.55	Amagon	1,103.89	946.53	Manila	39,958.78	40,594.45	Central City	8,930.98	8,511.77
Mountainburg	7,197.25	6,548.71	Beedeville	1,205.27	1,033.45	Marie	1,004.25	1,020.33	Rotr Smith	1,533,727.14	1,461,736.13
Mulberry	18,877.10	17,176.09	Campbell Station	2,872.37	2,462.90	Osceola	92,737.64	94,222.36	Greenwood	159,263.25	151,787.65
Rudy	695.77	633.08	Diaz	14,846.19	12,729.83	Victoria	442.35	449.43	Hackett	14,446.13	13,768.05
Van Buren	259,956.46	236,531.82	Grubbs	4,347.97	3,728.16	Wilson	10,795.68	10,968.50	Hartford	11,421.69	10,885.58
Crittenden County	1,534,777.10	1,248,160.68	Jacksonport	2,388.01	2,047.59	Monroe County	NA	NA	Huntington	11,297.16	10,766.89
Anthonyville	1,245.98	1,013.30	Newport	88,750.50	76,098.89	Montgomery County	237,753.40	210,997.67	Lavaca	40,723.14	38,811.66
Clarkedale	2,871.17	2,354.99	Swifton	8,988.82	7,707.44	Black Springs	883.74	784.29	Mansfield	12,862.75	12,258.99
Crawfordsville	3,706.98	3,014.71	Tuckerman	20,973.91	17,984.03	Glenwood	374.92	332.73	Midland	5,782.01	5,510.61
Earle	18,681.96	15,193.14	Tupelo	2,027.55	1,738.52	Mount Ida	9,605.12	8,524.20	Sevier County	492,801.87	301,280.34
Edmondson	3,304.56	2,687.44	Weldon	844.82	724.38	Norman	3,374.29	2,994.56	Ben Lomond	1,601.29	1,584.75
Gilmore	1,831.82	1,489.73	Jefferson County	464,315.53	443,730.18	Oden	2,070.99	1,837.93	DeQueen	72,819.95	72,067.93
Horseshoe Lake	2,259.79	1,837.78	Alzheimer	11,638.42	11,122.43	Nevada County	123,471.11	132,899.22	Gilham	1,766.94	1,748.69
Jennette	800.99	651.40	Humphrey	3,642.92	3,481.41	Bluff City	1,136.72	1,223.51	Horatio	11,529.27	11,410.21
Jericho	920.94	748.96	Pine Bluff	580,537.08	554,799.07	Bodcaw	1,265.05	1,361.65	Lockesburg	8,161.05	8,076.77
Marion	95,538.02	77,696.50	Redfield	15,340.48	14,660.36	Cale	724.2	779.50	Sharp County	260,599.98	241,368.03
Sunset	1,379.09	1,121.54	Sherrill	993.52	949.48	Emmet	4,354.35	4,686.85	Ash Flat	12,080.22	11,188.72
Turrell	4,283.54	3,833.59	Wabbaseka	3,016.05	2,882.34	Prescott	30,214.63	32,521.78	Cave City	21,473.21	19,888.52
West Memphis	203,110.19	165,179.79	White Hall	65,359.65	62,461.94	Rosston	2,392.60	2,575.30	Cherokee Village	47,803.17	44,275.35
Cross County	572,874.21	316,553.24	Johnson County	134,912.21	135,526.87	Willisville	1,393.39	1,499.79	Evening Shade	5,325.16	4,932.17
Cherry Valley	8,629.90	8,130.84	Clarksville	99,097.58	99,549.07	Newton County	53,414.03	42,501.52	Hardy	8,998.53	8,334.45
Hickory Ridge	3,605.73	3,397.22	Coal Hill	10,926.86	10,976.65	Jasper	3,327.67	2,647.82	Highland	12,881.46	11,930.83
Parkin	14,648.29	13,801.20	Hartman	5,603.80	5,629.33	Western Grove	2,742.11	2,181.90	Horseshoe Bend	98.61	91.34
Wynne	110,916.09	104,501.91	Knoxville	7,892.82	7,928.78	Ouachita County	553,781.22	671,554.35	Sidney	2,231.14	2,066.49
Dallas County	165,459.19	145,038.61	Lamar	17,329.67	17,408.60	Bearden	10,725.12	10,307.15	Williford	924.52	856.26
Desha County	127,806.30	119,986.17	Lafayette County	75,108.42	82,944.81	Camden	135,263.02	129,991.68	St. Francis County	435,979.86	154,874.68
Arkansas City	4,946.29	4,643.64	Bradley	3,539.75	3,909.07	Chidester	3,208.65	3,083.61	Caldwell	10,723.66	10,190.34
Dumas	63,599.08	59,707.61	Buckner	1,550.05	1,711.77	East Camden	10,336.52	9,933.70	Colt	7,303.68	6,940.44
McGehee	57,017.53	53,528.78	Lewisville	7,214.78	7,967.53	Louann	1,820.83	1,749.87	Forrest City	296,997.28	282,226.29
Mitchellville	4,865.21	4,567.52	Stamps	9,542.69	10,538.31	Stephens	9,892.42	9,506.89	Hughes	27,842.90	26,458.14
Reed	2,324.49	2,182.26	Lawrence County	358,190.78	326,695.31	Perry County	131,665.03	117,642.98	Madison	14,858.56	14,119.58
Tillar	283.8	266.44	Alicia	966.48	881.50	Adona	1,320.36	1,179.75	Palestine	13,158.22	12,503.82
Watson	2,851.55	2,677.07	Black Rock	5,159.77	4,706.07	Bigelow	1,990.02	1,778.09	Wheatley	6,859.28	6,518.14
Drew County	453,295.81	419,939.70	Hoxie	21,667.91	19,762.66	Casa	1,080.30	965.25	Widener	5,274.90	5,012.52
Jerome	565.58	523.96	Imboden	5,276.68	4,812.71	Fourche	391.69	349.97	Stone County	176,097.42	99,177.14
Monticello	137,291.40	127,188.70	Lynn	2,244.73	2,047.36	Houston	1,092.93	976.54	Fifty Six	1,944.15	1,811.22
Tillar	2,958.43	2,740.73	Minturn	849.57	774.87	Perry	1,705.73	1,524.07	Mountain View	30,881.66	28,770.06
Wilmar	7,410.57	6,865.26	Portia	3,406.07	3,106.58	Perryville	9,223.58	8,241.28	Union County	543,769.34	576,709.15
Winchester	2,421.85	2,243.64	Powhatan	561.18	511.84	Phillips County	207,701.38	124,599.77	Calion	15,852.63	16,812.93
Faulkner County	897,036.60	829,613.13	Ravenden	3,663.28	3,341.17	Elaine	9,982.07	13,947.93	El Dorado	674,986.51	715,875.04
Enola	2,731.47	2,526.16	Sedgwick	1,184.72	1,080.55	Helena-West Helena	192,676.19	221,018.83	Felsenthal	3,884.41	4,119.72
Holland	4,501.26	4,162.94	Smithville	607.95	554.49	Lake View	6,949.77	9,715.29	Huttig	2,727.82	23,044.02
Mount Vernon	1,171.78	1,083.71	Strawberry	2,353.85	2,146.88	Lexa	4,480.00	6,272.18	Junction City	19,381.35	20,555.41
Twin Groves	2,707.22	2,503.74	Walnut Ridge	41,605.51	37,947.15	Marvell	18,609.31	26,009.81	Norphlet	24,454.03	25,935.37
Woster	6,949.90	6,427.52	Lee County	42,406.69	36,696.98	Pike County	209,097.59	178,142.01	Smackover	64,335.61	68,236.86
Franklin County	242,480.58	273,209.93	Aubrey	1,314.10	1,137.16	Antoine	1,340.96	1,142.44	Strong	18,305.02	19,413.88
Altus	5,732.90	8,487.54	Haynes	1,159.50	1,003.38	Daisy	1,318.03	1,122.91	Van Buren County	344,023.72	330,092.75
Branch	3,647.19	4,109.40	LaGrange	687.97	595.34	Delight	3,197.67	2,724.27	Clinton	30,559.53	29,322.05
Charleston	25,063.29	28,239.55	Marianna	31,808.88	27,526.08	Greenwood	25,054.12	21,345.02	Damascus	2,936.16	2,817.26
Denning	4,507.37	5,078.59	Moro	1,669.68	1,444.87	Murfreesboro	18,807.78	16,023.41	Fairfield Bay	25,309.68	24,284.78
Ozark	36,611.09	41,250.79	Rondo	1,530.53	1,324.47	Pointsett County	282,220.51	141,273.68	Shirley	3,417.69	3,279.29
Wiederkehr Village	377.65	425.49	Lincoln County	152,704.26	144,822.88	Fisher	2,313.69	2,112.98	Washington County	2,881,171.72	1,671,903.36
Fulton County	216,475.80	214,358.57	Gould	5,172.96	4,905.97	Harrisburg	23,883.89	21,812.04	Elkins	54,933.79	50,242.72
Ash Flat	543.53	538.21	Grady	2,774.98	2,631.76	Lepanto	19,640.40	17,936.66	Elm Springs	36,428.91	33,318.06
Cherokee Village	4,225.68	4,184.35	Star City	14,054.13	13,328.77	Marked Tree	26,622.96	24,313.50	Farlington	123,932.96	113,349.70
Hardy	223.81	221.62	Little River County	307,729.23	231,531.34	Trumann	75,698.03	69,131.46	Fayetteville	1,526,445.84	1,396,094.93
Horseshoe Bend	90.59	89.70	Ashdown	46,306.51	47,226.70	Tyronza	7,905.96	7,220.14	Goshen	22,218.31	20,320.98
Mammoth Spring	5,206.17	5,155.25	Foreman	9,912.32	10,109.29	Waldenburg	632.89	577.99	Greenland	26,844.54	24,552.15
Salem	8,712.48	8,627.26	Ogden	1,764.80	1,799.87	Weiner	7,428.70	6,784.29	Johnson	69,580.04	63,638.25
Viola	1,795.78	1,778.23	Wilton	3,666.87	3,739.74	Poik County	299,897.43	277,830.74	Lincoln	46,656.38	42,672.16
Garland County	2,503,693.07	2,287,459.59	Winthrop	1,882.46	1,919.88	Cove	8,995.74	8,333.84	Prairie Grove	91,819.10	83,978.20
Fountain Lake	8,567.67	7,827.72	Logan County	336,546.44	314,231.66	Grannis	13,046.18	12,086.24	Springdale	1,331,750.35	1,218,025.74
Hot Springs	276,893.33	252,979.21	Blue Mountain	1,194.45	1,115.25	Hatfield	9,725.76	9,010.14	Tontitown	51,033.66	46,625.64
Lonsdale	1,601.11	1,462.84	Booneville	38,434.38	35,895.98	Mena	135,101.03	125,160.18	West Fork	48,067.07	43,962.38
Mountain Pine	13,115.53	11,982.79	Caulksville	2,051.76	1,915.72	Vandervoort	2,048.76	1,898.02	Winslow	8,111.46	7,418.77
Grant County	210,828.24	213,641.90	Magazine	8,158.88	7,617.90	Wickes	17,756.03	16,449.48	White County	1,271,305.08	1,124,997.91
Greene County	392,232.18	596,335.39	Morrison Bluff	616.49	575.61	Pope County	405,355.42	390,980.69	Bald Knob	39,300.95	34,778.03
Delaplaine	1,538.89	1,538.23	Paris	34,022.61	31,766.74	Atkins	48,682.04	46,955.67	Beebe	99,235.92	87,815.43
Lafe	6,154.93	6,073.35	Ratcliff	1,945.80	1,816.78	Dover	22,242.65	21,453.88	Bradford	10,296.66	9,111.68
Marmaduke	14,930.40	14,732.52	Scranton	2,157.72	2,014.65	Hector	7,263.57	7,005.99	Garner	3,852.77	3,409.38
Oak Grove Heights	11,947.01	11,788.67	Subiaco	5,509.90	5,144.56	London	16,770.77	16,176.04	Georgetown	1,682.19	1,488.60
Paragould	350,924.95	346,273.79	Lonoke County	342,308.04	311,978.49	Pottsville	45,808.89	44,184.41	Griffithville	3,052.37	2,701.09
Hempstead County	684,734.91	421,582.08	Allport	1,384.16	1,261.52	Russellville	450,663.93	434,682.48	Higginson	8,424.54	7,455.01
Blevins	3,828.05	3,936.40	Austin	24,529.67	22,356.26	Prairie County	90,595.73	97,301.36	Judsonia	27,389.93	24,237.78
Emmet	522.56	537.35	Cabot	286,171.45	260,815.77	Biscoe	3,764.67	4,043.32	Kensett	22,356.91	19,783.98
Fulton	2,442.66	2,511.80	Carlisle	26,648.03	24,286.93	Des Arc	17,806.98	19,125.00	Letona	3,459.35	3,061.24
Hope	122,67										

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at citytown@arml.org or call 501-374-3484. Classified ads are FREE to League members and will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless otherwise notified. FOR NON-MEMBERS, classifieds are available for the rate of \$0.70 per word and will run for one month unless otherwise notified. Once we receive the ad, we will send an invoice. The ad will run once payment is received.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—The city of Berryville is accepting applications for the position of building inspector/code enforcement officer. Job duties include building inspection services and enforcement of various city codes, including ticket writing for violations. Well qualified applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills. Previous experience and/or an accredited college degree in a related field are preferred. Technological skills also preferred. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, 10 paid holidays per year, retirement program, paid employee health insurance (including dental, vision, prescription drugs and life). Applications and job descriptions may be received at the Berryville City Hall located at 305 E Madison Avenue, or by contacting Mayor Tim McKinney at 870-423-4414 or via email at mayortim@berryvill.com. A resume must accompany the application. Applicants may submit their information to the mayor's office via email at mayortim@berryvill.com or by mail at City of Berryville, P.O. Box 227, Berryville, AR 72616.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY—The city of Springdale is accepting applications for the position of deputy city attorney. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12. The incumbent works under the direct supervision of the city attorney and senior deputy city attorney and performs a variety of technical and professional work primarily in the area of prosecuting crimes, drafting legal documents, advising city officials as to legal rights, obligations, practices and other related phases of applicable local, state or federal law. Qualified applicants must have a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and have no felony convictions. General knowledge of state statutes relating to criminal offenses, criminal law, criminal procedure and traffic law. Starting salary is \$50,452 to \$62,323. To apply, you must submit a city of Springdale application. You can apply online at www.springdalear.gov/789/Current-Job-Openings For questions or to request an application, contact Katherine Bowen at kbowen@springdalear.gov or call 479-756-7714.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING—Located on the Arkansas River at the Arkansas-Oklahoma border, scenic Fort Smith is where you can “expect the unexpected.” Covering just over 65 square miles, the city sits at the crossroads of Interstates 40 and 49 and US Highways 64 and 71 in Sebastian County. Fort Smith is the second largest city in the state and has a population approaching 90,000. This thriving community is a hub for commerce and boasts a diverse economy, a rich history and a promising future. The deputy director of finance and accounting directly supervises the finance manager, accounting manager and treasury staff and assumes duties and responsibilities of the director in the absence of the finance director. The deputy director provides indirect oversight of 12 employees in accounting and finance. The ideal candidate will possess knowledge of financial systems and experience with data analytics. Good verbal and written communication skills, as well as excellent organizational abilities, are necessary. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated problem solving and analytical ability, as well as excellent interpersonal skills. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment is vital for the successful candidate. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, business, finance, public administration or a related field and seven years of progressively responsible experience in corporate or municipal finance and/or governmental accounting. Two years of supervisory experience, preferably in finance or accounting is required. A master's degree and Certification in Public Accounting (CPA) or Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) designation is preferred. Municipal accounting experience at the controller or manager level and supervisory experience with at least three full-time direct reports is ideal. Experience with ERP systems, knowledge of utility billing systems and investment program experience is highly desired. The salary range is \$81,000 to \$121,000 commensurate with experience and education. Position closes November 27. Please apply online at: bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches. For more information on this position contact Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, 405-269-3445.

FIRE CHIEF—The city of Johnson is accepting applications for the position of fire chief. This management position requires a dedicated, self-motivated person with strong personnel management skills and experience. The ideal candidate must be able to identify and develop unique solutions to address problems as they arise, perform administrative duties and work in the field. Qualifications required for the position can be found at the link below. Extensive background check, credit check and drug screening required before hire. Starting salary range is \$58,000 to \$62,000 commensurate with experience and a complete benefits package of paid retirement, paid health insurance, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave. Applications and job description may be obtained at Johnson City Hall, 2904 Main Drive, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or online at cityofjohnson.com/fire-department. Please attach a resume or CV to your application when submitting. The city of Johnson is an EOE and a drug-free workplace.

FIRE MARSHALL—The city of Monticello is accepting applications for the position of full-time fire marshal classified within the Monticello Fire Department. The objective of the fire marshal is to direct the operations of building inspections for all residential and commercial construction, enforce adherence to ADEQ storm water requirements, complete commercial and residential plan reviews, and direct enforcement of city codes. Individual will be expected to be available during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be expected to be available for other needs that the fire chief deems necessary. Essential duties and responsibilities: complete commercial and residential plan reviews; knowledge of city codes and directing enforcement procedures; interpret and communicate building, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and structural codes; train other employees in code enforcement and building inspections; public speaking as requested; direct ADEQ storm water enforcement procedures/flood plain management and city compliance; all other duties as required or assigned. Education and experience: Qualifications include five years of related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and prefer at least four years of managerial experience. Must be licensed/certified with the following credentials: Arkansas Plumbing Inspectors License, Arkansas Mechanical Inspectors License, Arkansas Electrical Inspectors License, Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Certification, Flood Plain Management Certification, FF1 and FF2 certifications, Inspection 1 certification. Must be familiar with International Fire Code and International Building Code. Resumes may be sent to Patty Burchett, HR Director, City of Monticello, P.O. Box 505, Monticello, AR 71655; or faxed to 870-367-4405. Full benefit package included and salary DOE. For more information, please call 870-367-4400, ext. 2. Position is open until filled.

POLICE OFFICER—The city of Monette is accepting applications for a certified police officer. Resumes can be mailed to P.O. Box 382, Monette, AR 72447; faxed to 870-486-5111; or emailed to Bcarmichael@monettepolice.org. For more information, call 870-486-2121.

PUBLIC WORKS LABORERS—The city of Monticello is currently taking applications for full-time public works laborers. Applicants must possess the ability to work independently, be trainable, have good listening skills, knowledge of public works and have a minimum of a high school diploma. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check, motor vehicle check and drug screen. Applicants should have an interest in obtaining either water and/or wastewater licensing to the level that is required for the city. Some job responsibilities include assisting daily with the upkeep of all city streets including asphalt repair, replacement and repair of all culverts, assist with water leak repairs, maintenance of sewer ponds, tree limb removal, general maintenance of city grounds and buildings, lawn care around wells, sewer ponds and City of Monticello Lake and communicating with the public works superintendent and assistant public works superintendent on daily issues that may arise. On-the-job training will be provided. Hours may vary depending on daily assigned tasks. Salary DOE. Full benefits package included for full-time employees. To apply please contact Patty Burchett at 870-367-4400 for an application. You will need to provide either an email or a fax number to receive an application at this time due to CoVid-19 guidelines.

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR—The city of Monticello is currently taking applications for a full-time public works operator. Applicant must possess an Arkansas CDL, at least two years of verifiable experience of operating heavy equipment, general knowledge of public works and have a minimum of a high school diploma. Must be 18 years of age and be able to pass a pre-employment background check, motor vehicle check and drug screen. Applicant should have an interest in obtaining either water and/or wastewater licensing to the level that is required for the city. Some job responsibilities include assisting daily with the upkeep of all city streets including asphalt repair, replacement and repair of all culverts, assist with water leak repairs, maintenance of sewer ponds, tree limb removal, general maintenance of city grounds and buildings, lawn care around wells, sewer ponds and City of Monticello Lake, operation of heavy equipment as needed, assist with driving the solid waste disposal trucks as needed and communicating with the public works superintendent and assistant public works superintendent on daily issues that may arise. On-the-job training will be provided. Hours may vary depending on daily assigned tasks. Salary DOE. Full benefits package included. To apply please contact Patty Burchett at 870-367-4400 for an application. You will need to provide either an email or a fax number to receive an application at this time due to CoVid-19 guidelines.

WATER PLANT OPERATOR—Forrest City is seeking licensed personnel for one position: water plant operator. Forrest City Water Utility requires: T-3 and D-2 license. Applicants who possess both will be considered if willing to advance their licensure. Salary commensurate with licensing and experience. A competitive benefit package includes vacation, sick leave, holidays, insurance and retirement. Email resumes to WH Calvin Murdock at cmurdock@cityofforrestcityar.com, Tiffany Cunningham at tcunningham@forrestcitywater.com or call 870-633-2921. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.



CUSTOM SOLUTIONS. PROVEN STABILITY.

This has been a season of challenge and change. Our team is here to help communities move forward with new projects, refinancings, debt restructurings and more. If you need financial solutions – for roads, parks, pools or other improvements – contact Crews today.

Serving Arkansas for 40 Years





Standing from left: Lindsey Ollar, Leigh Ann Biernat, Kevin Faught, Dennis Hunt (Executive Vice President and Head of Public Finance), Michael McBryde, Jason Holsclaw
Seated from left: Michele Casavechia, Jack Truemper

CELEBRATING 87 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ARKANSAS

Stephens traces its origins back to the public finance markets of the early 1930s when we first began investing in Arkansas. We have since grown into one of the largest privately held financial services firms in the United States, all while remaining true to our roots. From our municipal advisory work to financing the recent expansion of Razorback Stadium, we take great pride in all that we do and in the difference we're able to make in Arkansas.

Headquartered in Little Rock, Stephens offers broad-based knowledge and sound advice with the objective of meeting the long-term goals of Arkansas' public, private and nonprofit municipal bond issuers. With the largest salesforce and investor network in the state, we stand ready to dedicate a full complement of senior bankers, traders and technicians to your community's success.

Little Rock 800-643-9691
Fayetteville 800-205-8613

LITTLE ROCK, AR • ATLANTA, GA • AUSTIN, TX • DALLAS, TX
FAYETTEVILLE, AR • JACKSON, MS • NASHVILLE, TN

Stephens
Public Finance