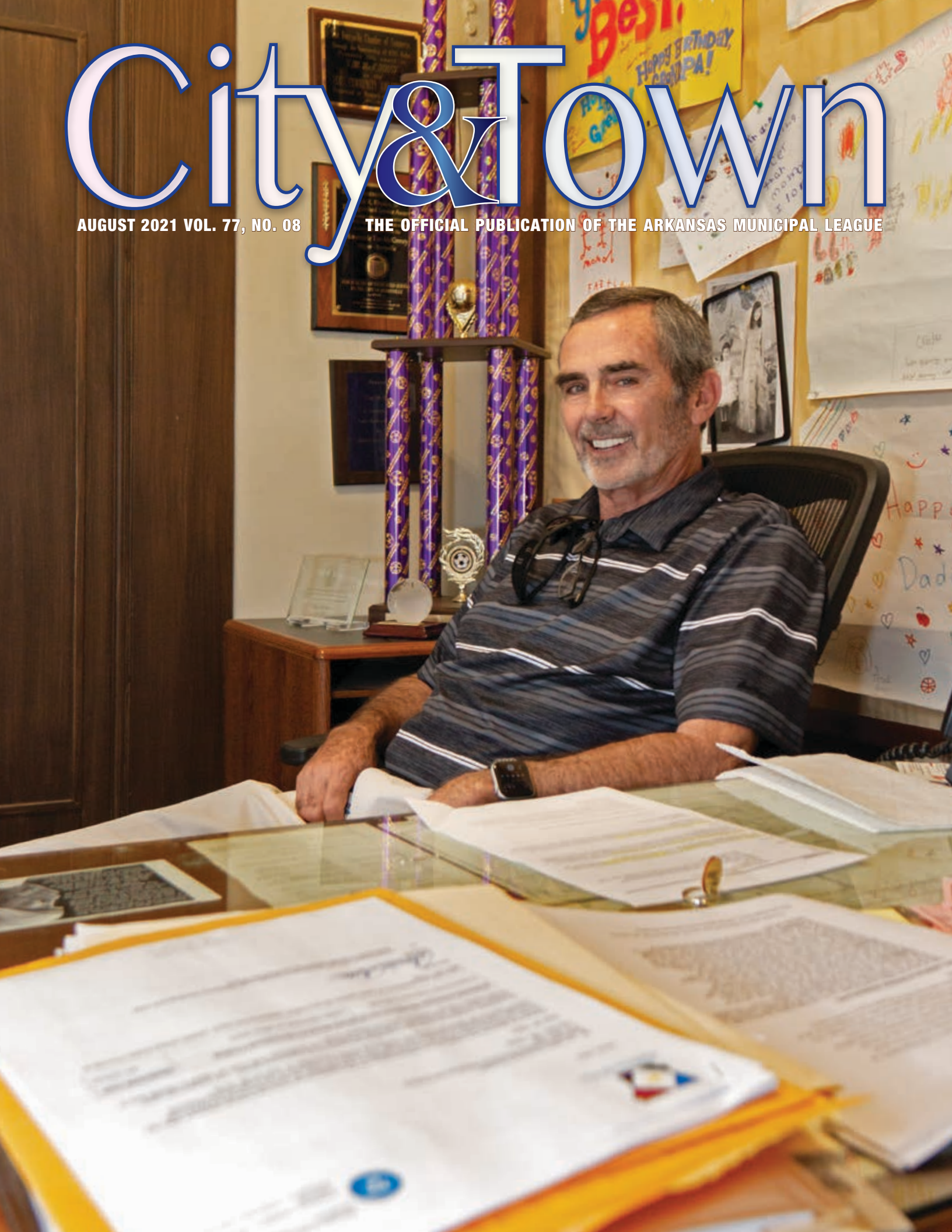


# City & Town

AUGUST 2021 VOL. 77, NO. 08

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—League 2021-2022 President Tim McKinney has had the honor of leading his northwest Arkansas hometown of Berryville for more than 30 years as mayor. Read about McKinney and the growing city that’s maintained its small-town feel inside beginning on page 14. Read also about Marianna institution Jones’ Bar-B-Q, which celebrated a grand re-opening after a fire threatened its future, and about the 20th anniversary of Central Arkansas Water, the state’s largest municipal water system.—atm

## Features

### 14 Love for hometown drives longtime Berryville mayor

Berryville’s population and economy have both expanded and diversified over the last several decades, and longtime Mayor Tim McKinney, the League’s 2021-2022 president, whose own history is intertwined with his beloved hometown’s, has helped keep the city a fantastic place to live and work.

### 22 “America’s Classic” Jones’ Bar-B-Q recovers after fire

When a fire earlier this year nearly destroyed Jones’ Bar-B-Q, donations poured in from across Arkansas, the nation and the world to help the family rebuild the beloved, James Beard Award-winning Marianna institution, and in July the restaurant celebrated a grand re-opening.

### 26 CAW at 20

In 2001, Little Rock Municipal Water Works and the North Little Rock Water Department merged to form Central Arkansas Water, the state’s largest municipal water system. In July the utility celebrated its 20th anniversary with a presentation on the past, present and future of clean—and tasty—drinking water in the metro area.

Correction: The sales and use tax totals for May and June 2021 showing the combined municipal and county receipts were incorrect in the July 2021 issue. The corrected totals appear in this issue on page 51.

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Greetings fellow municipal officials,  
I hope everyone had the chance to participate in the 87th Annual Virtual Convention. As always, our staff put together an informative event with timely information that makes all of us better municipal officials, which results in our cities and towns being better places for our citizens to live, work and do business.

Dr. Malcolm Glover started us off with a timely message about how we can work to reach everyone in our cities and towns and include them so that we are all working together to meet the needs of *all* our citizens.

Our first day also included a workshop on something we have all been dealing with daily for over a year: COVID-19. This pandemic has been a challenge for everyone in a leadership position. We have all had to deal with not only the effects of the pandemic, but also the divisiveness within our communities. So many seem determined to ignore the science and focus only on their "personal rights" with little thought given to protecting themselves, their families and everyone in their community as well. It is the obligation of every individual to do all we can to end this pandemic for good. The solution remains: Everyone who can must receive the vaccine. The vaccines are available and are very effective in stopping the spread and are almost 100-percent effective in preventing death. School is starting soon, and now that the vaccination is available to kids 12 and over, it's important to ensure they're vaccinated before heading back to class. Let's move forward. Get your vaccine, encourage others to do so, and let's beat this thing.

The workshop providing an overview of the 93rd General Assembly showed what a great job our staff and all of you have done not only getting good bills passed but also preventing a lot of bad bills from being passed. Thankfully, with the legislature in recess, our staff can get back to a more normal workday instead of the daylight-to-bedtime schedule many of them lived during the session.

One thing I hope all of you will discuss with your representatives and senators, any time you are given the chance, is the importance of local control. We need to help them understand how essential local control is to protecting our ability to better serve and meet the needs of our cities and towns. Cities and towns are all unique, and each should be able to decide what's best for their community at the local level.

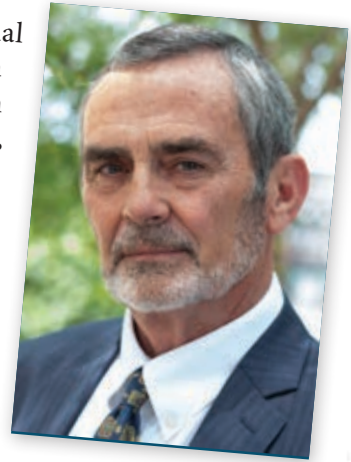
The good information shared during these and other convention sessions will make us all better municipal officials and personnel. I encourage everyone to give your feedback to the League staff about what you liked or disliked so we can continue to improve the experience for the membership. The annual planning meeting is right around the corner, and we plan to meet in person this year with pandemic precautions in place. The executive committee, advisory councils and boards will be looking at how the League has fared over the past year and plan for the year ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, contact someone in this group before the meeting, or you can call me any time at 870-423-9423 and I will get back with you.

Stay safe, keep up the good work, and please be a leader in your community by getting your vaccine and encouraging others to do likewise.

Best,



Tim McKinney  
Mayor, Berryville  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



# ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

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**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

THE THREE Ms: Miracles of Modern Medicine.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

(I just don't get it...)

Here's a not so cheery way to start this month's column: The "Black Death," otherwise known as the bubonic plague, struck our good earth in the mid-1300s. October of 1347 to be exact, on the European continent. In the ensuing five years over 20 million people died. That equates to almost one-third of Europe's population at that time.<sup>4</sup> Of course in the 14th century there weren't hard drives or cloud storage to preserve the events and images of the time, but the written descriptions of the plague's effect on the human body are disturbing at best.<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, most scholars believe that the spread of the illness slowed and virtually stopped due to quarantining.<sup>6</sup> Sound familiar? To put a fine point on this bumper start, none other than Dr. Anthony Fauci has made it clear the bacteria causing the plague still very much exists and can still be transmitted via rodents and fleas.<sup>7</sup> Thankfully, however, the virus is now easily treated by modern medicine.<sup>8</sup> Score one for quarantine and score one for those in the health care field.

Let me jump to something a little more modern in the field of viruses and illnesses. I'll share my personal story regarding mumps.<sup>9</sup> In 1969 my family lived in Birmingham, Michigan. In case I wasn't clear in that last sentence, I lived there, too. And I got the mumps. As in I got really, *really* sick. And for a long time. A total of three weeks as Mother Hayes recalls it. High temperature and massively swollen on the right side of my jaw and neck. Very painful. After two weeks I started to feel better and BOOM, it started all over again on my left side. Awful, but I still managed to pass fourth grade. Mother Hayes recalls at the outset of my illness calling the pediatrician in hopes of either a house call<sup>10</sup> or a phone consult.<sup>11</sup> Mother Hayes is a nurse of the RN variety and had pretty much concluded I had the mumps. Neither a house call nor phone consult occurred so as instructed, she took me to the clinic. I was too big for her to carry and was so sick I could barely walk. Essentially, she dragged me into the waiting room and again into the examination room when my name was called. The doc walked in, took one look at me and yelled at her: "He's got the mumps! Get him out of here! He's highly contagious!" Now, I realize most of you don't know Mother Hayes so here's a little Mother Hayes primer: Yelling at her for doing that which she was told to do and being rude to her will not win you brownie points. To say she was hot under the collar is an understatement. Even today, some 50-plus years later, she was irritated telling me the story. She's too much of a lady to tell me exactly what she said to the doc, but I bet his tail feathers are still singed whether he's on this earth or not. Alas, she took me home and I continued my slow recuperation.

<sup>1</sup> Or, wow, we are *really* lucky the world has great medical doctors and researchers.

<sup>2</sup> Or, does anyone really want to live in the Dark Ages again with plague and pestilence?!

<sup>3</sup> Or, none of those words has Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green, Communist or any other political identification or affiliation.

<sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/3rpn79K>

<sup>5</sup> id

<sup>6</sup> <https://bit.ly/36LM59N>

<sup>7</sup> id

<sup>8</sup> id

<sup>9</sup> Mumps is a viral disease caused by the mumps virus. Initial symptoms are nonspecific and include fever, headache, malaise, muscle pain and loss of appetite. These symptoms are usually followed by painful swelling of the parotid glands, called parotitis, which is the most common symptom of infection. <https://bit.ly/3wUxuDg>.

<sup>10</sup> Yes, you less than 40-year-old readers, there was a time in which doctors actually came to your house to diagnose and treat your various ailments.

<sup>11</sup> The first telemedicine perhaps!



The mumps vaccine was licensed for use in 1971.<sup>12 13</sup> Soon after my 1969 bout, Mother Hayes, RN, spoke with a research doctor at the University of Michigan Medical School about how sick I had been. He asked if he could examine me and draw blood for the work he and others were doing on—wait for it—the mumps! He examined me and took my blood. I'm happy to report that my mumps blood was part of the national mumps research and perhaps even helped a tad with the vaccine. Yay me.<sup>14</sup>

History is a great teacher.<sup>15</sup> I spent some time looking at other viruses, vaccines and statistics and one thing is abundantly clear: Science has been and will continue to be the savior of our health. My hat is off to all those who work in the science, research and health care industry! Here are a few things I learned:

- The measles vaccine was first introduced in 1963 and then substantially improved in 1968. In the first 20 years of being licensed and used in the United States, approximately 52 million cases were prevented. Between 1999 and 2004 efforts to improve vaccination rates worldwide averted approximately 1.4 million measles-related deaths.<sup>16 17</sup>
- Polio is one of the most vicious viruses the world has ever seen. Polio can cause partial or total paralysis, including in the muscles used to breathe. The United States suffered two large outbreaks of polio, in 1916 and again in 1952.<sup>18</sup> In the 1952 outbreak nearly 58,000 cases were reported, along with more than 3,100 deaths. In 1955 Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine was licensed for use. By 1962 the average number of cases dropped to 910.<sup>19</sup> In 1979 the CDC declared the United States to be polio-free.<sup>20</sup>
- According to the CDC the percentage of children vaccinated on or before being 24 months old is as follows:<sup>21</sup>
  - Polio: 92.6%
  - Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR): 90.8%
  - Chickenpox: 90.2%
  - Hepatitis B: 90.6%
- The influenza pandemic of 1957 and 1958 isn't as well known as the Spanish Flu or COVID. It was, however, fast moving and very deadly. Starting in China, it quickly spread to Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, the United Kingdom and the United States. Due to the lack of consistent reporting mechanisms and the speed with which the virus spread, statistics are difficult to come by. The best estimates for those two years, before a vaccine came into existence, is between one and four million deaths directly related to the virus. Maurice Hilleman once again saved the day. Working in record time, he developed a vaccine. How fast did he do it? Working 14 hours a day for nine days, he and his team isolated the new flu virus and then developed the vaccine. While 69,000 Americans died before the vaccine could be introduced Hilleman's work saved millions of people around the world.

Having read so much about pandemics, viruses and vaccines, I remain puzzled at the hesitancy of Arkansans to get the COVID vaccine. I did some informal polling of friends and family regarding mumps, measles, vaccines and the like. I learned some interesting things. From a generational standpoint, my children described mumps, measles and polio as "ancient diseases." Moreover, they don't know a single person to have suffered those illnesses. Clearly,

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<sup>12</sup> <https://bit.ly/3zkClTA>

<sup>13</sup> Mumps is preventable with vaccination. Mumps vaccines use live attenuated viruses. Most countries include mumps vaccination in their immunization programs, and the MMR vaccine, which also protects against measles and rubella, is the most commonly used mumps vaccine. Mumps vaccination can also be done on its own and as a part of the MMRV vaccine, which also provides protection against measles, rubella, chickenpox and shingles. [id](https://bit.ly/3wSd3Ha).

<sup>14</sup> On a totally unrelated note, while living in Racine, Wisconsin, Mother Hayes knew a dentist at the Marquette University Dental School. Long story short, the dentist was enamored with my teeth and my "bite." He took impressions and used them for teaching purposes. I should note at this point, my Local Controller is most unhappy with me prattling on about my teeth and blood.

<sup>15</sup> The "original" version of this saying is attributed to none other than Julius Caesar! In Latin: "*Ut est rerum omnium magister usus*," which roughly translates to "experience is the best teacher." <https://bit.ly/3wSd3Ha> Yes, I had to look that up. No, I don't speak or even pretend to know Latin I just cut and pasted it. And a BIG yes, the Local Controller is about to go ballistic.

<sup>16</sup> <https://bit.ly/3wXcRGx>

<sup>17</sup> Maurice Hilleman, Ph.D., is widely considered the grandfather of vaccines. A specialist in vaccinology, he and his team of microbiologists developed over 40 vaccines including measles, mumps, hepatitis A and B, and chickenpox. <https://bit.ly/2UtwpFv>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://bit.ly/2VWDgHL>

<sup>19</sup> <https://bit.ly/3kB5su2>

<sup>20</sup> Id.

<sup>21</sup> <https://bit.ly/3hQeJwA>

they've never heard my mumps story, or, more accurately, they likely ignored me while I was telling it. The Local Controller knows of one person to have suffered polio but nobody with measles. I know, as does a dear friend of mine from high school and college, three people who had polio. Sadly, they are all gone from this earth now. We also know of a couple of grade school classmates who had the measles. I asked my Facebook friends if they knew of anybody who had contracted any of three viruses. No one under the age 40 responded affirmatively. My conclusion will shock you I'm sure: Vaccines work!

What you're now likely hearing is the foot tapping and arm crossing of the Local Controller standing directly behind me. You can also hear her silent but LOUD: GET. TO. THE. POINT. Okay, here's the point. Like I said, vaccines work. Vaccines have been widely accepted in our country for, well, forever. To those of you who haven't been vaccinated for COVID or know folks who haven't been I ask this question: Did you and/or your kids get vaccinated for the mumps, the measles and polio? How about pneumonia or shingles? For roughly 90 percent of you those answers will be in the affirmative. So why not take the vaccine for COVID? For those who don't trust the government, you trusted it enough to get other vaccines. For those who think it didn't get enough testing please reference back to Maurice Hilleman and his nine-day work of heroism. For those who think it's political, I'm pretty sure there have been Republicans, Democrats, Green Party members and Independents who have contracted the virus and, in some instances, died. COVID and its new Delta variant know nothing of religion, politics or geographic boundaries. The only thing that will stop this virus is herd immunity. The danger in prolonging vaccinations is it furthers additional mutations of the virus. Eventually one of those mutations will overtake the immunities provided by the vaccine, and boom....we'll have another pandemic on our hands. Is that what any of us really want?

We've had several decades where the deaths and physical disabilities associated with many viruses have all but disappeared. Most if not all our children and grandchildren have never worried about being paralyzed from polio or having such a high fever with the mumps or measles that brain damage occurs. Why are we rolling the dice on their future now? Just ask Ashton Reed of Star City. Neither she nor her husband took the virus seriously, so they didn't get vaccinated. Within days of being tested Ashton was in the hospital and quickly thereafter in ICU at UAMS. The docs made it clear to her husband that her condition was so bad she might not recover. It gets worse: She was pregnant. The baby was taken by C-section, Ashton appeared to rebound and then crashed worse than before the baby was born. Thankfully, Ashton and the baby survived.<sup>22</sup> Ashton and her husband are now vocal supporters of the vaccine.

A final personal tale regarding the regular old yearly flu. In my mid-30s I got the real deal flu. I hadn't ever had a flu shot, mostly due to my lack of education about its need. For two solid weeks I did not move from my bed. I felt as though my body had been tossed around in a tornado and the fever was so high at times I hallucinated. I vowed to get a flu shot every year thereafter and I have. Unfortunately, the shot doesn't mean you won't get the flu, although for the vast majority of those vaccinated it does fully protect. In the past eight years I've had the flu five times. That's right, five. I know some of you are saying, "Well, I'll just take my chances on the COVID vaccine if the numbers shake out like that." Here's why you're wrong: My symptoms were mild, I recovered very quickly and, with the help of some new drugs to treat influenza, I was one hundred percent in a matter of two or three days.

It seems clear that the COVID vaccine has become a political thing or a cultural thing or just a *thing* thing. I don't get it. I really don't. It shouldn't be. It's the same science that Hilleman and Falk used. The same science as the yearly flu shot. The same science that stopped polio and so much more. The same science that virtually all of us and/or our kids have relied on in being vaccinated just to go to school. It is time we lead with science, education and discussion. As I'm writing this on June 16, reports are flooding in about our hospitals being at capacity, our COVID/Delta-variant cases are as high as they were back in January and February, and our vaccination rates falling. We must do better. Let's lead at the local level. Let's Be Local and Be Heard. Otherwise, we are ignoring the Three Ms, and I just don't get that.

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes  
Executive Director  
Arkansas Municipal League

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<sup>22</sup> <https://bit.ly/3y5MC20>





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# *How do you think new money becomes old money?*



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## New Legislative Audit requirements: Act 260 of 2021 now in effect

During the 2021 Regular Session, the Arkansas General Assembly enacted Act 260, which requires a public entity, or contractual provider of a public entity, to disclose in writing an initial report of the known facts of a security incident to the Legislative Auditor within five (5) business days after learning of the incident. Additionally, the public entity shall provide regular updates regarding the status of the incident. A report, update, notification or list created or maintained under this law is exempt from FOIA as a security function under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-105(b)(11).

A link to a form for reporting security incidents will be made available on the Arkansas Legislative Audit website, [www.arklegaudit.gov](http://www.arklegaudit.gov). Questions can be directed to: David Coles, [David.Coles@Arklegaudit.gov](mailto:David.Coles@Arklegaudit.gov), 501-683-8600.

## Urban and Community Forestry Grant proposals open through September 13

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division is now accepting applications for the 2021 Urban and Community Forestry Grant through September 13, the agency has announced. Grants are available to fund community projects that develop, improve and/or promote urban and community trees and forests.

The Forestry Division and the Grant Review Committee of the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council will rank grant proposals and award funds based on criteria that include: improvements to a community's tree management program, proposed implementation plan for the project, level of community involvement, educational components, and tree care and long-term maintenance planning. Communities that participate in the Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education, Tree Campus K-12 and Tree Line USA programs will receive additional ranking points. Selected grant recipients will be notified on or before September 24.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Community tree inventories and management plans;
- Parking lot improvements for stormwater runoff;
- Tree-friendly streets (allowing for root space and canopy growth, adding tree grates, etc.);

- Park improvements to help reduce sun exposure and cool the air;
- Improving tree health with tree maintenance and protection plans, soil amendments, mulching, professional pruning and restoration, watering bags and/or irrigation, etc.;
- Greenway development planning and urban stream restoration (including demonstration areas, feasibility studies, maps, etc.);
- Communication materials that increase public awareness of the benefits of urban forests; and
- Education and training for tree care workers, volunteers and the public.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants are administered by the Forestry Division and are funded through a \$40,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service. The maximum federal cost share of any project is 50 percent of the total project expenditures and cannot exceed \$12,000. The nonfederal match may be cash, services or in-kind contributions. Projects must be completed by August 31, 2023. For complete grant details and an online application, visit [www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/grants](http://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/grants) or email [kristine.kimbro@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:kristine.kimbro@agriculture.arkansas.gov).

## Obituaries

**MARY LYNN DARTER**, 83, a former Altus council member, died July 10.

**GARY LYNN RAINEY**, 64, mayor of Casa since January 2019, died June 27.

**HAROLD DEWAYNE WEST**, 79, who served four terms as mayor of Monticello, died July 14. During his tenure as mayor, West served the Arkansas Municipal League as District 4 vice president, first vice president and as League president in 2000-2001. He also served two terms as Drew County Judge and in 2010 was admitted to the Drew County Hall of Fame for his outstanding citizenship.

## Meeting Calendar

**November 18-20, 2021**, National League of Cities City Summit, Salt Lake City, Utah

**January 19-21, 2022**, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference.

# Summaries of Attorney General opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

## Law’s preference for Arkansas firms limited to “commodities”


Opinion: 2021-027

Requestor: Les A. Warren, State Representative

1. Does Ark. Code Ann. sec. 19-11-259 only apply to the purchase of “commodities” as that term is defined under the statute as “materials and equipment used in the construction of public works projects?” 2. Must the preference allowed in the statute be extended to bids for a construction contract “to provide utility needs of a county or municipality” wherein the cost of the commodities is a part of the overall bid? In other words, must a five percent (5%) preference be given to a “firm resident in Arkansas” for a lump-sum bid that is only part materials? 3. Does Ark. Code Ann. sec. 19-11-259(b)(1)(B) conflict with Ark. Code Ann. sec. 19-11-259(b)(1)(C), and if so, how can they be reconciled?

**RESPONSE:** The answer to the first question is “yes,” the statute is limited to a political subdivision’s purchase of commodities alone. Correspondingly, the answer to the second question is “no,” the preference cannot be extended to bids for public works construction contracts. And lastly, Ark. Code Ann. sec. 19-11-259(b)(1)(B) and (C) do not conflict. 🏛️

*To read full Attorney General opinions online, visit the “Opinions” page at [www.arkansasag.gov](http://www.arkansasag.gov) or email [oag@arkansas.gov](mailto:oag@arkansas.gov).*



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Berryville Mayor and League 2021-2022 President Tim McKinney, left, shares a laugh with a construction supervisor at the site of a beautification project on the city's historic square.

## Longtime Berryville mayor a champion of hometown

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**A**s we embark on a tour of his hometown, Berryville Mayor and League 2021-2022 President Tim McKinney decides to start at the beginning. He steers his truck down a narrow gravel alley to the recently uncovered mouth of the freshwater spring where Berryville in the mid-1800s was founded. In 1909 city leaders built a decorative stone structure around spring, with access for people to collect drinking water and, just below that, a place where their horses could drink. The names of those city leaders are carved in the stone above the spring.

For years it was hidden in thick brush behind an old gas station, McKinney says. The city cleared it and added landscaping. They rebuilt the rock wall lining the creek below with stones from the old Carroll County jail.

“The story is, everybody whose name is on that plaque got beat in the next election because they spent

so much money fixin’ the spring up. So, I hope history doesn’t repeat itself.”

They’ll create a new trail that ties into the existing trail system that leads to the community center. The center, which is now 20 years old and paid for, has been a great success in the city, McKinney says. Like similar facilities across the state, it was closed to the public during most of 2020, but that gave the city a chance to catch up on maintenance and give it a fresh coat of paint.

It’s been a hugely popular amenity for the city, particularly for the senior community and youth. “I’ve had real estate agents tell me they’ve sold a house here because of this.”

“When we built the center, I told the voters if they’d pass the half-cent sales tax, we’d do away with our utility franchise taxes and our property taxes, and they went for it and that doubled our money. It replaced that and

paid for this.” That half-cent hasn’t sunset, and since Berryville is a shopping hub for the surrounding area, it has served the city very well, he says.

McKinney’s own history is deeply intertwined with his hometown’s. “I’ve lived all but 12 years of my life here.” On the square, where several restaurants and shops are busy with lunchtime traffic, he points out the building, now a deli, where his grandfather was a barber for 45 years and where, as a boy, McKinney hung out with him and shined shoes.

We pass a vacant lot where his dad’s upholstery and glass shop once stood. Parts of the shop’s floor are still visible. “There was a four-inch concrete floor but I swept it so many times, when they tore it down there wasn’t but about two inches.”

A few minutes later he turns past Stubbs Grocery, a vintage corner store. “That’s one of our institutions right there. Home of the Luther Burger.” What makes the Luther Burger special? “Luther used to make ’em, before he died.” The house we pass having a yard sale? “The basement of that house is where I went to kindergarten.” A preacher’s wife ran it before the public schools became K-12.

At Berryville High School, McKinney was a sprinter and long jumper, and he earned a spot on the track team

at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville. He freely admits that academics weren’t his priority, and he chose to leave school without achieving a degree. “I’m still on spring break from 1973.”

He returned to Berryville and briefly worked for a bricklayer. He then had the opportunity to take a job with Allied Telephone Company and moved to Greenbrier. A new job with Arkansas Power & Light, now Entergy, took him to Harrison and then Yellville. Entergy then offered him a position back in his hometown and he took it.

Back in Berryville, McKinney soon got involved in the civic side of things when a friend on the planning commission suggested he’d be a good fit, and he served there for several years. It wasn’t long before some folks began suggesting he make a run for mayor. He ran in 1990 and took office on January 1, 1991. McKinney is now in his 31st year in office. “I always loved Berryville and had an interest in it, and at the time I couldn’t pass up the job because it paid a thousand dollars a year. It’s never been defined as a nine-to-five job, it’s always just been ‘you’re the mayor.’ I’ve been retired 12 years now. I was full-time Entergy and the mayor. Since I retired I’ve had a lot more time to devote to it. It’s just something I’ve always enjoyed doing.”



Skip’s Barber Shoppe and Beauty Salon at the corner of Hubbert and Church, memorialized in a ghost sign, where McKinney’s grandfather cut hair for 45 years.

McKinney has two grown sons and seven grandchildren, and he and his wife, Grace, have two daughters, Faith, 15, and Abigail, 7.

In the early '90s, Berryville was really beginning to grow and change, and he wanted to help lead the city forward, McKinney says. "I could see there was a lot of stuff we needed."

One of the first things they accomplished was passing a solid waste ordinance. "It was the wild wild west as far as trash in town, with four or five trucks from different companies going down the same street."

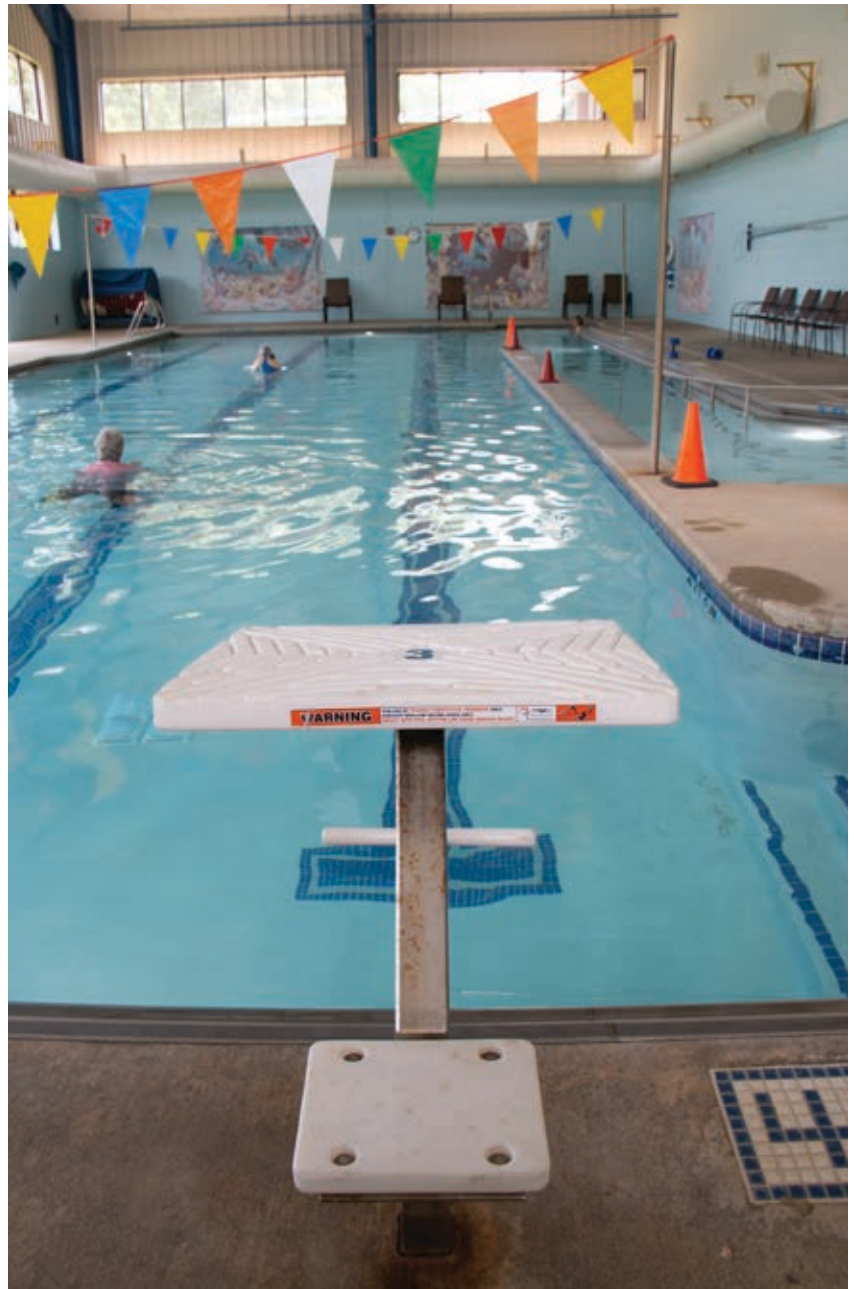
The economy has expanded over the years, though like many of the communities in north-west Arkansas, poultry remains a key economic driver. Berryville once called itself the Turkey Capital of Arkansas, McKinney says. They had a billboard proclaiming it and everything. "They still have some turkeys around here, but the chickens have kind of taken over."

Tyson is the city's largest employer and recently celebrated 50 years in Berryville. The local facility is the protein giant's largest plant for cooked products and employs about 2,800 workers. Everything that comes from the plant is ready to eat. "They don't kill chickens here anymore, they just process them."

Missouri-based Mid-States Specialty Eggs, which specializes in organic, cage-free eggs, opened a second facility in Berryville about five years ago, the first of its kind in Arkansas. They produce about 150,000 dozen eggs per day. And so, the poultry economy rolls on.

The city is set for new industry opportunities as well with a forthcoming 160-acre industrial park. Work on the front third is already underway thanks to a \$1.5 million EDA grant. According to the federal agency's website, the park is expected to create or retain 400 jobs and spur \$330 million in private investment.

McKinney expects Berryville's population of 5,356 to increase when the next round of 2020 census results come in later this month, and he hopes the new count accurately reflects the greater diversity the city has seen over the past several decades as the Hispanic and Marshallese communities have grown. "That's been a lot of our growth over the last 30 years, adding a lot of diversity to our community, and it's been a good thing. And the people that come here, they're ambitious people, ready to go to work."



For 20 years, the community center, now paid for, has been one of the city's most popular amenities.

The school system—home of the Bobcats—continues to grow and has recently added a new high school facility and athletic complex, and the city was able to build a new street leading to it with State Aid Street Program funding. The growth is welcome, but with it comes challenges. New families need affordable housing, McKinney says. "Housing's our biggest problem right now, and what's been happening in the markets recently has made it worse."





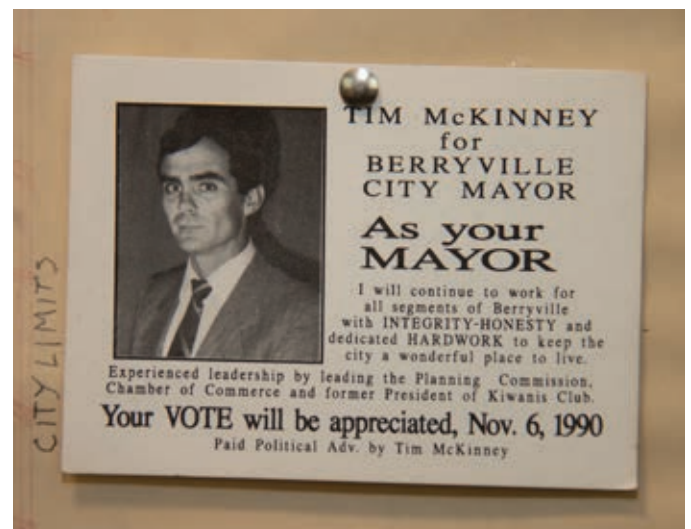
Stubbs Grocery, home of the Luther Burger, is a Berryville institution.

Beyond that, Berryville faces the same broad infrastructure challenges every city and town faces, he says, like maintaining and upgrading water, wastewater and streets. He cites that half-mile stretch of new pavement leading to the school's new sports complex as a prime example. It cost about \$1.5 million. "When I was first elected, we could have paved the whole town for that much."

Despite the challenges, McKinney is pleased with the progress the city has made during his tenure. He's got a philosophy that hasn't failed him yet, he says. "Hire good people and get out of their way." He's been blessed with good employees and fellow public officials, he says. "As a mayor you should provide leadership, but then you should find people who want to get involved and show some confidence in them and let them do their thing."

The city has great selling points, starting with location, McKinney says. "We're close to Branson, close to Eureka, close to Fayetteville. And there's a good work ethic in the town."

It's also a beautiful place, he says, with easy access to all the great outdoor activities this part of the state is known for. Within 30 or 35 minutes you can be on Beaver Lake, the Buffalo River or, the mayor's favorite, the Kings River.



A card from McKinney's first campaign for mayor.

Back on the downtown square, a large sign advertises an upcoming city ice cream social. It's sponsored this year largely by Tyson since the chamber of commerce wasn't able to do its normal fundraising due to the pandemic. More than 18 months into it, the pandemic remains a major challenge. He's concerned about the safety of the planned community gathering as surging case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths continue to be reported.

Already as League president he's used his platform to ask city and town leaders to use their influence to encourage all citizens who are able to get vaccinated and to continue to practice social distancing and other virus mitigation methods. "The cities have tried to be responsive, but to be truthful it's been difficult." He'll continue to press the issue, he says, though he fears "we're going in the wrong direction."



Berryville's Tyson plant is the company's largest facility for ready-to-eat food.



The Ozark foothills will make a scenic backdrop for the city's new industrial park expansion.

As we continue to fight the pandemic, other pressing city and town issues remain, and one area McKinney wants to work on during his term as president is cybersecurity. "We don't know if it's possible yet—we've got a lot of research to do—but we'd like to see if it's possible for the League to have a cybersecurity program, just like the insurance programs, workers' comp and the others."

He'd also like to focus more training for city leaders on how to avoid lawsuits, he says. "It's just the nature of the business we're in. You're gonna get sued. But I think we could do a better job as cities on the front end and learn how to avoid a lawsuit to start with." 🏛️



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

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# MEET YOUR 2021-2022 LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENTS



## **First Vice President Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood**

Young has previously served the League as District 2 vice president, 2011-2012; on the Cities of the First Class Advisory Council, 2003-2011; the Pension Management and OPEB Trusts Board of Trustees, 2006-2009; the Municipal Health Benefit Program Board of Trustees, 2009-2011; as chair of the Economic Development Advisory Council, 2012-2013; on the Executive Committee, 2013-2016 and 2017-2021; and as chair of the Cities of the Large First Class Advisory Council, 2016-2017.



## **District 1 Vice President Mayor Dennis Behling, Lakeview**

Behling has previously served the League on the Incorporated Towns and Cities of the Second Class Advisory Council, 2009-2014; Executive Committee, 2014-2016; and as chair of the Incorporated Towns and Cities of the Second Class Advisory Council, 2016-2021.



## **District 2 Vice President City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren, Beebe**

Westergren has previously served the League on the Cities of the First Class Advisory Council, 2007-2021, and the Pension Management and OPEB Trusts Board of Trustees, 2017-2021.



## **District 3 Vice President Mayor Peter A. Christie, Bella Vista**

Christie has previously served the League on the Cities of the First Class Advisory Council, 2014-2017 and 2019-2021.



## **District 4 Vice President Council Member James Turner, Mena**

Turner has previously served the League on the Cities of the First Class Advisory Council, 2006-2010 and 2014-2018; as chair of the Cities of the First Class Advisory Council, 2018-2019; and on the Executive Committee, 2019-2021.

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James Harold Jones, back in the window.

## Iconic Jones' Bar-B-Q smokes again

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**W**hen fat dripped into the pit embers and set ablaze the back half of Jones' Bar-B-Q Diner on Sunday morning, February 28, news that the beloved Marianna institution was in trouble spread quickly, first across town and then far beyond.

Mayor Jimmy Williams, who has known owner and pitmaster James Harold Jones for 50 years, was in church when he got word. "It was between Sunday school and church, and I teach Sunday school, and a lady came in and said, 'Jones' Bar-B-Q is on fire,' and I said surely not. I couldn't hardly wait for church to be over and I got in the car and came up here." He praised the work of the Marianna Fire Department, which is largely volunteer-run. They acted quickly and were able to quench the flames in the back pit area and prevent widespread damage to the kitchen and front of the house.

By the end of that day, pictures of Jones standing in front of the charred remains of the back of the restaurant appeared in news outlets across Arkansas. By the next day, the *New York Times* had run the story.

It's not every day a restaurant fire in a small Arkansas Delta city makes that kind of impact. This isn't your typical restaurant. The Southern Foodways Alliance believes Jones' Bar-B-Q to be the oldest African American-owned restaurant in the South and possibly the nation, and it has been in continuous operation by the family for more than a century, since 1964 in its current building. In 2012 the James Beard Foundation named Jones' an "America's Classic," a designation reserved, according to the foundation, for "restaurants with timeless appeal and that are beloved for quality food that reflects the character of their community." It was Arkansas' first James Beard award winner. Little Rock's Lassis Inn joined it in 2020.



(Top) The fireplace that feeds the pit and the front of the house, with its cherished guestbook that holds signatures of folks from up the street and across the globe, were spared. (Above) A new metal structure houses the chimney and pit.



(Top) Jones with Mayor Williams, who has been enjoying barbecue here for more than 50 years. (Above) As the reopening celebration winds down, Jones' fans take advantage of the shade and visit.



**“I’m proud to have all of you folks here now. That’s all I’ve got to say.”**  
– James Harold Jones


Within a few hours a crowdsourced fundraising effort was underway, organized by Jones with the assistance of Little Rock nonprofit The Venture Center, and donations began pouring in. The initial goal of \$10,000 was reached within days, and Jones was able to clear the damage and begin building a modern metal structure for the pit area. Before it was over, they had raised more than \$67,000 with donations coming in from across the U.S. and overseas, and in less than five months from that gray Sunday morning, Jones was ready to fire up the pit again.

To celebrate, the restaurant and the Venture Center hosted a grand re-opening July 14, and several dozen supporters from Marianna and across Arkansas, New York, Maryland and elsewhere gathered to congratulate Jones and his family, hear remarks about the diner’s history and enjoy some complimentary barbecue for lunch.


An emotional Jones thanked everyone who made the day possible. “I was surprised at how fast the funding’s come through. It just blows me away,” Jones said, adding that he didn’t realize that so many folks out there cared. “I’m proud to have all of you folks here now. That’s all I’ve got to say.”

The outpouring of generosity is unlikely to surprise anyone familiar with the iconic restaurant’s history or those who are simply lovers of Jones’ pulled pork sandwiches, served on plain white bread with slaw and a splash of his proprietary sauce. Simple and addicting. And woe be unto those who pass through Marianna without picking up some to go for loved ones back home. 🍷

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From left, Roby Brock of *Talk Business & Politics* leads a panel discussion on the history of the merger that led to the creation of Central Arkansas Water with former Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey, former North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hays, and former CAW commissioner and head of UALR's Institute of Government Dr. Roby Robertson.

## CAW celebrates 20th anniversary of historic merger

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

On March 5, 2001, Little Rock Municipal Water Works and the North Little Rock Water Department signed a consolidation agreement. That agreement became official on July 1, 2001, and Central Arkansas Water (CAW) was created to serve both cities and the metropolitan region.

On July 1 of this year, CAW hosted a 20th anniversary celebration of the merger at Little Rock's Ron Robinson Theater. During a panel discussion, the two mayors in office at the time of the merger—Jim Dailey in Little Rock and Patrick Hays in North Little Rock—shared their thoughts on the significance of the utilities' consolidation and the circumstances that brought them together.

The history of providing water service to customers in central Arkansas is a long, eddying tale, with private and public interests clashing along the way. There had long been rate inequities as well, particularly on the north side of the Arkansas River, whose water comes from the Little Rock side and whose rates were set by their neighboring city's water board. The state Supreme Court had ruled that, yes, Little Rock had the authority to set North Little Rock's rates, but it also had a duty to service North Little Rock. Conversely, North Little Rock had no duty to remain a customer.

By the late 1990s, when Little Rock was again preparing to raise rates for North Little Rock, it became increasingly clear that consolidation would benefit both

cities, Hays said, and not just because his city's customers were about to experience another round of sticker shock when they received their bills. "Little Rock was getting ready to raise our rates, but the problem Little Rock had in the long term was having the requirement to plan for us as a customer, but we didn't have the duty to be a customer. So it put Little Rock into a pretty difficult position."


In 2000, a UA Little Rock study, "Water for Our Future: Overcoming Regional Paralysis," found that water customers would be better served over time by a single public utility serving both sides of the river as well as the surrounding communities in the growing metropolitan region. When both cities came to the negotiating table, that study was crucial, Dailey said. "It took a very complicated, very contentious, in many ways politically divisive issue that had been going on for so many years and turned it into an opportunity for us."

The reach and importance of the utilities' consolidation is bigger than the borders of the city limits, Dailey said. "Central Arkansas Water, on a regional basis, ties us together in a vital way."

He cited water struggles in other parts of the country, particularly in places like drought-ridden California, where important sources like Lake Powell are running desperately low. We're fortunate to have water

abundance here, and the consolidation that created CAW has been essential in allowing us to plan for the future of the region in an affordable way by spreading the ratepayer base across a larger area, Dailey said.

As the state's largest water utility, CAW serves nearly 500,000 customers, residential and commercial, in eight counties in the central Arkansas region covering about 360 square miles of service area. It's two main sources remain Lake Winona and Lake Maumelle. The system features 2,750 miles of pipeline, 22 booster pumping stations and 23 remote storage facilities. CAW's two main treatment facilities recently received \$20 million in upgrades, increasing their treatment capacity from 124 million gallons per day to 157 million gallons per day.

Beyond water quality and safety, CAW's water is regularly judged to be some of the tastiest water in Arkansas and the nation. In fact, the American Water Works Association at its annual convention in June named CAW among the top five in North America in its "Best of the Best" water taste test. "CAW is proud to be recognized again nationally for what our customers already know," Tad Bohannon, CAW CEO, said in a media release following the taste test competition. "We have some of the best tasting, most affordable water in the country." 





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# Sherwood honors first responders

The city of Sherwood and the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce hosted its 3rd Annual Service Awards luncheon July 15 to honor the city's first responders.

Winners of this year's awards include:

- Jamal Hockaday, Police Officer of the Year
- Chris Howey, Gravel Ridge Firefighter of the Year
- Josh Clay, Sherwood Firefighter of the Year
- Jonathan Bell, EMT, and Mitchell Weaver, Medic, MEMS Crew of the Year
- Morgan Holt, Dispatcher of the Year
- Tim McMinn, 25 years of service on the Chaplain's Program at the Sherwood Police Department

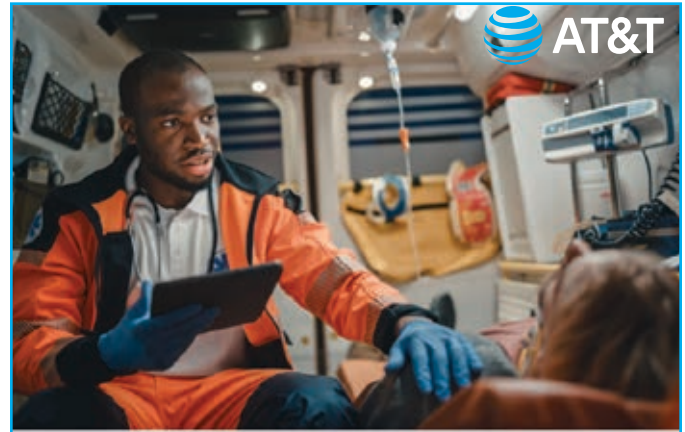
Sherwood Mayor and League 2021-2022 First Vice President Virginia Young thanked her city's many first responders for their service. "Sherwood has a great community of dedicated first responders who go above and beyond to fulfill their call of service. We appreciate the sacrifice they make to protect and serve our community."

As children we all learn to dial 911 in an emergency, and it's often something that sits in the back of your mind until needed, chamber CEO Kellie Wall said in remarks to the media. "Until that one fateful day when your life changes forever and you need help, your first call is to a first responder," she said. "Dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, paramedics and EMTs are our superheroes. When we call, they are there, and their jobs are far from easy. They work around the clock and rush to scenes to help complete strangers without thinking twice."

"It takes a special kind of person to care for others when they don't have to," Wall said. "So, when you see your local Sherwood first responders, give them a wave, or thank them for their service because without them the world would be a much different place. 🙏"



From left, Morgan Holt, dispatcher; Capt. Josh Clay, Sherwood Fire Department; Tim McMinn, Sherwood Police Department Chaplain's Program; Officer Jamal Hockaday, Sherwood Police Department; Jonathan Bell, EMT; Mitchell Weaver, medic; and Chris Howey, firefighter, Gravel Ridge Fire Department.



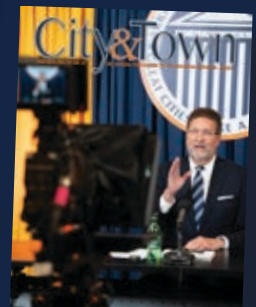
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## Meet Tammie Dodson, program accountant at the Arkansas Municipal League

### City & Town: What are your duties at the League?



**Dodson:** As the program accountant in the finance department, I perform accounting, financial reporting, accounts payable and assist with audit for specific League programs, like the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Program and the Municipal Vehicle and Municipal Property Programs. I also perform special financial projects for the League.

### How long have you been working at the League?

**How did you get started?** I have been with the League for 18 years. I wanted to relocate closer to my family and friends in central Arkansas, applied for this job and was lucky enough to get it.

### How has the League changed since you started?

**What has stayed the same?** Participation in the great programs we offer has grown so much. We've also grown in employees, who are all very devoted to the League and are very committed to helping our cities and towns in any way we can. We have a great leader with Mark Hayes, department leaders and co-workers. We are like a big family!

### What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service?

Get involved with your city or town. Learn as much as you can about what happens in your city government. The League offers so many programs, workshops and online information to help you, and if you can't find answers, call us!

### Where did you grow up? How has it changed?

I was born and raised in England, Arkansas, and still have many relatives and friends there. England is a big farming community. My Daddy was a farmer. My grandfather was a very respected, selfless man who was the mayor of England for almost 18 years and justice of the peace for 42 years. He was mayor during the England Food Riot of 1931<sup>1</sup> and was instrumental in getting food to so many people in Lonoke County. I guess my love for the cities and towns of Arkansas came from him. They say I look just like him! So many of our great small farmers have been forced out of business and the town has gone down so much. The young families are trying to bring it back to life!

**What is your favorite spot in your hometown?** My hometown church is a favorite along with visiting my sisters' and brothers' houses. Hometown games and homecomings are great. Of course, I cannot leave out the famous Spradlin's Dairy Queen! Best cheeseburgers anywhere!

**What is your favorite part about working for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas?** The people! I work with the best co-workers anywhere, and I enjoy working with so many amazing people in our cities and towns. It gives me such joy to be able to help in any way that I can. 🙏

<sup>1</sup> Learn about the Depression-era riot in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/england-food-riot-of-1931-1308/>



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## Meet Amanda Hicks, city engineer/MPO director for the city of West Memphis.

### **City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities in West Memphis?**

**Hicks:** I wear two hats with the city. As director the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) I engage in a range of transportation studies and report findings to ARDOT. As city engineer, I oversee projects from the time the city council votes to accept federal funding administered through ARDOT until the project is complete. I'm also the liaison between all the project's partners. I also oversee major drainage projects, street overlay projects and traffic signaling.



### **Why did you choose your profession? Did it choose you?**

I have always liked helping people and making a difference in my community. My profession profoundly changes lives by giving them access to clean water, clean air and roads to travel on.

**What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge?** My favorite aspect is helping my hometown become a better place. I have lived here for 40 years and I've seen the city go through a time of growth and then economic and population decline. I am proud to be working to make West Memphis great again. The biggest challenge has been swaying the public's perception that government is here to work for the public and not against them.

**What's your favorite spot in West Memphis?** The best place is the Big River Crossing, which is a 7-mile recreational trail in the floodway next to the Mississippi River. It's not only a place to exercise, but it offers gorgeous views of downtown Memphis and connects with the pedestrian bridge across the river, which offers the ability to get to downtown Memphis and back without using a motor vehicle.

**In what season does West Memphis shine the most?** The Christmas holidays have always had a very nostalgic, hometown feeling with a city tree lighting event that includes caroling, hot chocolate and pictures with Santa. The streets are lined with lights and our parks have lit Christmas decorations.

**What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government?** The biggest lesson I have learned is to always be kind. You never know what another individual is going through.

**What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job?** Stay in school, make the grades. If it wasn't hard, everyone would be doing it. Find a mentor and never feel ashamed to ask for help. Show up at civic events and be a part of the solution in your community. While in college it is vitally important to have an internship in engineering. I have seen many people wait years after graduating because of a lack of experience.

**What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit West Memphis?** 1. The Big River Trail and Harahan Bridge. 2. The new West Memphis Library (it opened in early 2021). 3. Southland Casino Racing (soon to have a new convention center and 20-story hotel made of glass). 🏠

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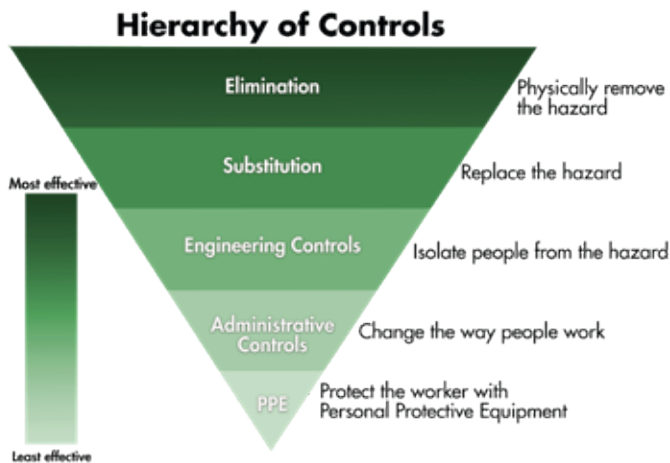
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# Consult the hierarchy of controls for workplace hazards

By Allen Green, League staff

**M**unicipalities, like businesses of all kinds, must contend with a variety of workplace hazards that can jeopardize the health and well-being of your employees. Whether it is exposures related to slips, trips and falls, potentially dangerous equipment, poor housekeeping practices, hazardous material usage, or similar risks, employers have a duty to provide a workplace free of recognized hazards and protect workers from harm.

While there are many approaches to addressing on-the-job hazards, nationally recognized bodies such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommend using the hierarchy of controls.



## What is the hierarchy of controls?

The hierarchy of controls is a widely accepted system for minimizing or eliminating employee exposure to hazards. Specifically, the hierarchy of controls examines hazard control methodologies from a tiered perspective, ranking them from most effective to least effective as follows:

- **Elimination**—Elimination refers to physically removing a specific hazard from your workplace altogether. This is one of the most effective ways to manage on-the-job risks and involves altering the policies, procedures, materials, parts, products, equipment or tools you use to help workers perform their duties safely. For example, if your business requires the use of a hazardous chemical as part of its daily operations, one elimination strategy could involve halting the use of the chemical altogether.

Because the chemical is no longer used in your workplace, it poses no threat to your employees.

- **Substitution**—Substitution refers to replacing materials, processes or equipment with a less hazardous equivalent. This is typically used when elimination is not possible. Using the same chemical hazard example outlined above, substitution could involve swapping the hazardous chemical for a less toxic one that's just as effective.
- **Engineering controls**—Engineering controls involve denying access to a specific hazard. This can include redesigning equipment or work processes to reduce the frequency of dangerous tasks, or isolating the hazard by installing screens or barriers. Staying with our chemical hazard example, engineering controls could involve installing a ventilation system.
- **Administrative controls**—Administrative controls refer to changing the way your employees work to limit specific hazards. These are implemented when engineering controls can't be used and establish new procedures for safe work. Administrative controls could include altering policies, posting signage and training employees. Under our chemical hazard example, administrative controls might involve limiting an employee's exposure to the chemical through job rotation.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**—Providing employees with PPE is the least-effective hazard-control method. However, PPE still plays an important role in worker safety and can protect workers from common workplace hazards like noise, cuts and head injuries. PPE is relatively inexpensive and used frequently where hazards can't be addressed using other controls. Finishing up our chemical hazard example, PPE would include the use of respiratory protection to reduce exposure by inhalation, as well as gloves and goggles for direct contact.

## Using the hierarchy of controls to address workplace risks

The hierarchy of controls is most effective when used as part of a larger, systematic approach to eliminating workplace hazards. To leverage the hierarchy of controls effectively, as well as minimize on-the-job risks, consider

implementing the following steps for addressing workplace hazards.

**1. Identify hazards and evaluate control options.** Every workplace hazard is different and requires a unique approach. To evaluate your control options, first determine the types of hazards present in your workplace. This can be accomplished by:

- Conducting a risk/hazard assessment;
- Performing periodic safety audits/inspections of the workplace to identify new or recurring hazards;
- Investigating injuries, illnesses, incidents and near misses to determine underlying hazards as well as their causes; or
- Soliciting input from workers who have knowledge of the facility, equipment and work processes.

After identifying the hazards present in your workplace, you can then evaluate your control options by collecting, organizing and reviewing hazard information available from the following sources:

- OSHA standards and guidance
- NIOSH publications
- Literature from equipment manufacturers (for equipment-related risks)
- Engineering reports

Networking with other locations with similar hazards can also help you evaluate your options and determine whether they might be effective in your own workplace.

**2. Select controls.** After reviewing hazards and potential risk mitigation strategies, employers should select the most feasible, effective and permanent control option. This can be accomplished by selecting controls in accordance with the preferred hierarchy.

This could mean eliminating or substituting hazards where possible. If elimination and substitution can't be accomplished, emphasize engineering and administrative controls. If no single method found on the hierarchy of controls fully protects workers, consider using a combination of methods (e.g., use administrative controls and PPE).

When selecting controls, avoid ones that may directly or indirectly introduce new hazards. Additionally, be sure to solicit input from your workers before selecting control options. Doing so can help you better evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of your control methods. For complex hazards, seek the advice of a safety and health expert.

**3. Develop a hazard control plan.** Developing a hazard control plan is crucial, as it can help you outline and communicate how your selected hazard controls will be implemented. An effective plan will:

- List workplace hazards, organizing them based on priority.

- Take interim controls into account. These may be necessary if you need to put temporary precautions in place while you develop and implement long-term controls.
- Establish a target completion date for implementing controls. Your plan should also establish processes that allow you to track your hazard control implementation progress.
- Allow you to verify the effectiveness of controls once they're implemented.

Your hazard control plan should also include provisions to protect workers during emergencies, which could include fires, explosions, hazardous material spills and unplanned equipment shutdowns, among others.

**4. Implement selected controls.** Once you have identified hazard prevention and control measures, you should implement them according to your hazard control plan. In general, hazards should be addressed based on their severity and potential to harm workers.

**5. Evaluate controls to ensure effectiveness.** To ensure the control measures you have implemented are effective, you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Have all control measures been implemented according to the hazard control plan?
- Have engineering controls been properly installed and tested?
- Have employees been appropriately trained on the control methods?
- Do employees understand the controls (e.g., engineering controls, safe work practices and PPE usage requirements)?
- Do employees follow the control methods correctly and consistently?

Finally, it's important to conduct regular inspections to confirm that any controls you've implemented are working as designed. If the controls aren't working as expected, you may need to modify them. Be sure to solicit employee feedback on workplace controls, addressing any worker concerns that arise.

Successfully addressing workplace safety hazards takes ongoing management commitment and employee input to find the best practical solutions to recognized risks. Utilizing the hierarchy of controls will help you select and implement the best solutions for your workplace. 🏢



*Allen Green is the League's loss control liaison. Contact Allen at 501-374-3484, ext. 122, or email him at [agreen@arml.org](mailto:agreen@arml.org).*

# Density: Friend or foe?

By Jim von Tungeln

**F**ew policies of a city's growth plan encounter more adversity and neglect than one proposing higher residential densities, particularly multi-family housing. This column looks at the issue of densities, or the number of people in a defined area, and some considerations for the planning function.

First, how do we compute and compare densities? Population density at the city level involves people per square mile. Nationally, the figures vary considerably as data from the 2016 census estimates indicate. In the northeast, New York City, with a land area of 303 square miles and a population of 8,537,573, has a population density of 28,177. In the far southwest, Los Angeles, with 469 square miles and 3,976,322 people, contains 8,478 people per square mile.

In between, figures appear more familiar, but land area can produce somewhat interesting statistics. Houston, for example, contains a density of 3,842 within 600 square miles. Memphis has a density of 2,072 people within 315 square miles.

Figures for larger cities in Arkansas vary less dramatically, as a random sample of population densities indicates:

- Little Rock: 1,666
- Fayetteville: 1,551
- Conway: 1,440
- Fort Smith: 1,422
- Searcy: 1,345
- Jonesboro: 938

The U.S. Census Bureau served as the source for these figures, which represent land area estimates as of 2010 and population estimates as of 2016.

Viewed alone and out of context, population densities tell us little. Used as baselines with other data, however, they may shed light on such urban issues as need for parkland, costs of maintaining utilities, transportation needs, and the provision of public safety and education.

At the neighborhood level, comparable population density factors in America's largest cities would stagger the imaginations of most people in our state. The largest cities in the U.S. contain individual census tracts (areas roughly equivalent to a neighborhood as established by the bureau) that can reach densities of 100,000 people per square mile or greater. Indeed, the city of Chicago has one census tract that leads at 508,000 people per square mile. Hint: It houses a high-rise apartment building. By contrast, a randomly selected single-family



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

With a density of 70 units per acre, this spot in Little Rock hasn't experienced a crime since someone filched a tray of fresh cookies from the hospitality room.

census tract in an urbanized area of a northwest Arkansas city has a population density of 420.

At the development level, planners speak of "units per acre" instead of people per square mile. New suburban subdivisions on public sanitary sewer systems provide from less than two up to four dwelling units per acre. Multifamily zoning districts in our state tend to top out at slightly over 20 units per acre. One city in Arkansas with anything approaching high urban densities is Little Rock, which has approved developments with 70 to 84 units per acre. This is still under half of what one might expect in the urban core of a city such as New York or Boston.

Resistance to multifamily development comes from several claims, some more defensible than others.

Neighbors often see apartments as hot spots for crime and socioeconomic ills. There is no doubt that some developments suffer a long slide in the quality of management and maintenance as owners change and depreciation cycles reboot with each change of owners. Some developments ultimately become the housing of last resort for families too poor to afford health care, child care, nutrition, education and skills necessary for healthy families and neighborhoods.

This situation causes many observers to conclude that overcrowding itself creates the crime and other problems. Too often these beliefs stem from experiments carried out on laboratory rats forced into unnaturally crowded spaces. If overcrowding causes rats to become unhinged, it must do the same for humans.

Scholars blame this misunderstanding on the common tendency to confuse correlation with causation. Correlation compares the relationship, or pattern, between the values of two variables. Causation means that one event causes another event to occur. While density and urban problems are sometimes related, some densely populated areas, such as the Park Avenue area of New York City, have few socioeconomic ills. This offers compelling evidence that crowding does not necessarily cause the problems some people assign to it.

An enlightened study on the topic is Jonathan L. Freedman's 1975 work, *Crowding and Behavior: The Psychology of High-Density Living*. His experiments led him to the conclusion that humans are not laboratory mice and that, as far as we are concerned, crowding seems to amplify natural tendencies rather than cause them.

On the more positive side, higher densities offer some benefits for our cities. The most obvious involves a partial addressing of the pending crisis in affordable housing. It is an acknowledged crisis that may get much worse. As this column took shape, *The New York Times* quoted figures from Apartments.com stating that, nationwide, rent prices are up 7.5 percent so far this year, three times higher than normal. This will make it even more difficult to provide housing for service workers in our cities. The cost of owning a home is also rising. The veterans of World War II chose to house their families in homes of less than 1,000 square feet at prices affordable under the GI Bill. Although access to such funding was uneven across the racial spectrum, those obtaining financing could expect to pay around \$12,000 for a home, or near \$135,000 in today's dollars.

By contrast. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the median size of a new single-family home sold in 2020 was 2,333 square feet. The median sales price of new single-family homes sold in 2020 was \$336,900. (Median, in statistics, is the middle value of the given list of data, when arranged in order.)

It is safe to conclude that higher densities spurred by reduced lot sizes, smaller homes and multi-family development will provide means for addressing affordable housing needs in our country.

Another benefit of higher densities links the cost of providing urban services to density. In other words, some experts claim that urban sprawl costs a city more in operating expenses than more densely developed neighborhoods. In addition, one recently published study concluded that population and housing densities exert a positive impact on area incomes.

The foregoing simply implies that the issue of densities stands as a major one for our cities. The facts and possible solutions are complex, far too complex for a simple piece such as this. Some ideas, however, deserve thought.

It might be time for planning commissions to review the way decisions are made in cases involving higher densities. Such decisions deserve to be made based upon findings of fact and careful analysis, with sound planning as a foundation.

It may be time, with detailed legal analysis and approval, to insert requirements for permanent onsite management into the approval process for higher density housing.

It might be wise for cities to monitor the ongoing impacts that the short-term rental industry is having on permanent housing.

It might be time for planning commissions to consider an analysis of life-cycle costs to cities in the approval process for subdivision development.

It is certainly time to realize that socioeconomic ills result more from poverty, neglect and lack of a future than from overcrowding.

Preparing sound plans and sticking to them can't hurt. 🏠



*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](mailto:uplan@swbell.net).*

# Community driven re-entry: How Sevier County is addressing the substance abuse crisis

By Greta Hacker

**T**hough mental illness may not be many people's go-to example of an economic issue, it is a public health concern with steep economic consequences for communities. According to pharmaco-economic studies, the economic burden of adults with major depressive disorder was an estimated \$326 billion in 2018. Substance use disorder also had a substantial yearly impact—\$442 billion—according to the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* and the National Drug Intelligence Center.

People with mental illnesses need community support and acceptance, but due to pervasive stigma, they often experience social rejection instead. The academic journal *Administration and Policy in Mental Health* documents widespread and long-ranging public perceptions that individuals with mental illness are violent, dangerous to themselves and others, lazy, criminals, and at fault for their own mental health issues.

Stigma contributes to a societal reluctance to provide mental health services, which makes it difficult for people to get treatment. According to community-based nonprofit Mental Health America ([mhanational.org](http://mhanational.org)), one in five adults with mental health conditions reported being unable to receive treatment due to systemic barriers such as cost, lack of access to providers or lack of insurance.

COVID-19 has only compounded these concerns. Dr. Jennifer Conner, associate professor in the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, places an imperative on local officials to address mental health issues, emphasizing that “now more than ever, community leaders must prioritize social connectedness and build community resilience.”

## Combating the stigma in Sevier County

In southwest Arkansas, leaders of the Sevier County jail exemplify what can happen when local government officials challenge mental health stigma and step up to provide vital treatment.

Launched in 2017, the Sevier County Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program helps inmates with substance use issues achieve sobriety

through community-based counseling and programming. The program aims to help offenders re-enter society as productive and healthy citizens in both their professional and personal lives. The program offers waived or reduced sentences for successful completion of a 90-day inpatient program and provides graduates with nine months of transitional support upon release.

The RSAT program is funded by a federal grant administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Sevier County Sheriff Robert Gentry and Jail Administrator Chris Wolcott deliver the program locally.

Sheriff Gentry said that as a longtime law enforcement official, it took a change in his own attitude to recognize why drug offenders needed treatment instead of punishment. “Chris and I both would put on our uniform and come to work on patrol, and our whole goal that night was to put some [drug user] in jail. And if they didn't get the maximum sentence, our feelings got hurt, because we didn't do our job,” Gentry said. “After 20 years, we figured out that wasn't working.”

Gentry noted that the push for starting the RSAT program came when he and his team observed the success of volunteer programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous in the Sevier County jail, most of which were facilitated by local church groups. However, he noted that to launch the program, he and his team had to take responsibility.

“We're taking an active stance instead of sitting back and saying, ‘That's not my problem,’” Gentry said. “We're accepting the fact that we are people in power...and we are in the position to facilitate these changes.”


Wolcott noted that as the program developed, so did his team's understanding of mental health and its relation to substance abuse. They learned that because substance abuse is often related to underlying mental health concerns, such as childhood abuse and neglect, they needed to provide mental health interventions to help inmates achieve sobriety. Through administering the RSAT program, he and his team learned that they had to look to their constituents for guidance. “When you actually get to talk to [inmates], and you listen to them, you figure out what you think they need is different than what they need,” he said.

The RSAT program has had positive economic and community impacts, both inside and outside the jail. More than two-thirds of program graduates have successfully remained substance-free and have not re-entered the prison system. This recidivism rate is low compared to the state, which has a 57 percent recidivism rate according to the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Inside the jail, the program has contributed to a \$15,000 reduction in property damage and reduced inmate altercations and disciplinary infractions, Wolcott said.

The program has also revealed a greater need for substance use treatment services in the community as families and friends of inmates were driven to seek help for their own addictions. Since the RSAT program started, community programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous have gone from meeting once a week to seven days a week, and attendance has more than doubled.

Gentry and Wolcott offer two key pieces of advice to local officials hoping to start their own substance use treatment programs: Develop partnerships with your local faith-based community and seek guidance from communities that are already doing the work you hope to begin.

“If there’s a community that wants to see what we’re doing here in our jail, then they’re welcome to call us and set up a visit,” Wolcott said.

To find out more information about the Sevier County Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program, email [cwolcott@seviersheriffar.org](mailto:cwolcott@seviersheriffar.org), or call the Sevier County Sheriff’s Office at 870-642-2125. 



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# A checkup for your protection

By Daniel Knight, M.D.

**V**accination is one of the strongest tools available to modern medicine. Whatever the vaccine may be, the immunization it provides helps ensure both individual health and, when widely distributed, the health of whole populations.

However, not all vaccines are created equal. Not all of them work the same way, because not all viruses work the same way. Sometimes their protection lasts many years, other times not.

As we head into another autumn, historically a time in which many contagious diseases tend to spread as people spend more time indoors, it's worth taking a quick stock of your shot records and figuring out how well protected you and your family are.

## Early immunization

Most adults will have received a series of immunizations as children, between birth and 6 years, to ward off a series of dangerous diseases. These immunizations usually include a weakened form of the virus that the body uses to train up its immunity.

The most common of these are a shot for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and another for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap or Td). Varicella, which causes chickenpox, can also be immunized against between 12 months and 6 years.

However, not everyone may realize that their shot regimen was incomplete. For example, some forms of the MMR vaccination require two doses. If your shot records only show one, or if you don't have those records, you might consider getting that second dose. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting a tetanus booster every 10 years or sooner if injured.

## The annual battle

Beyond those boosters needed to keep your shot records up to date, for adults, the most commonly needed immunization will likely be an annual flu shot. Because different strains of influenza are active each year, we need a yearly flu shot to help us fight them off. The influenza vaccine helps 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 that year.

Flu shots are readily available. Many employers offer shots for their employees. Most pharmacies or medical offices also offer the shot. This year, we will likely again see many drive-up sites set up by different organizations to give flu shots to minimize contact during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## New vaccine technologies

Speaking of which, the COVID-19 vaccine is now available for all people age 12 and older. It is administered in either one or two doses, depending on manufacturer and does not require an annual booster at this time. Anyone eligible for the vaccine is encouraged to get it to help stop the ongoing spread of the virus in its many variant forms.

Unlike many other vaccines, most of the COVID vaccines available in the U.S. are not built from a weakened form of the virus. In fact, they contain no virus at all. Instead, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines use a genetic material called messenger RNA to teach your body how to recognize the virus and prevent infection. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a disabled adenovirus, which isn't related to the coronavirus that causes COVID, to train the immune system.

The vaccine does not impart 100-percent immunity from the virus, but it has been shown to be highly effective in preventing infection. And in those cases where someone has been immunized and still becomes infected, the chances for serious illness are reduced significantly.

However, as with other vaccines, that does not mean there are no side effects. Some people have reported a sore arm, fatigue, headaches, nausea or fever after being vaccinated. These symptoms are not a sign of infection but are a byproduct of the immune system being activated. These side effects are much less worrisome than the virus itself. 🏠



*Daniel Knight, M.D., is an associate professor of family medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the associate program director of the Baptist/UAMS Family Medicine Residency North Little Rock.*



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# Tree equity in Arkansas

By Krissy Kimbro

**A**cross the nation, municipal leaders are working to increase canopy cover in their hometowns, and the resulting lush, green, shade-covered parks and natural areas are valuable assets with numerous benefits to the community. However, new data reveals glaring disparities in where those greenspaces exist, due in part to redlining, a racially discriminatory housing policy established in the 1930s by the federal government's Homeowners' Loan Corporation (HOLC). Although the practice officially ended in the 1970s, recent aerial surveys and tree inventories show that a strong correlation still exists between redlined areas of the past and areas that today have significantly lower percentages of tree cover.

## The history of redlining

For decades, the practice of redlining limited access to home ownership among racial minorities. The name derives from the government-backed practice of drawing red lines on maps to indicate the perceived high risk associated with banks loaning people money to buy homes based on location of the homes rather than the individual qualifications of the loan applicant. Green lines were drawn around wealthier neighborhoods of predominantly non-immigrant white populations, which were perceived to be lower risk for such investments.

Today, almost a century after those maps were created, previously redlined neighborhoods are hotter than the highest-rated neighborhoods by an average of almost 5 degrees Fahrenheit, according to research from Portland State University, the Science Museum of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University. These higher temperatures are largely due to the lower amount of shade-producing tree cover present in formerly redlined neighborhoods.

## Heat islands

Higher temperatures can have dangerous, sometimes deadly, health consequences. Extreme heat kills more Americans every year than any other weather-related disaster, and heat waves are growing in intensity and frequency as climate change progresses. In areas with a higher percentage of impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, vacant lots and urban housing projects, temperatures can be as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than in nearby areas within the same climate zone that have more water-permeable surfaces and green spaces. The resulting

areas of higher temperatures surrounded by areas with lower temperatures are known as heat islands.

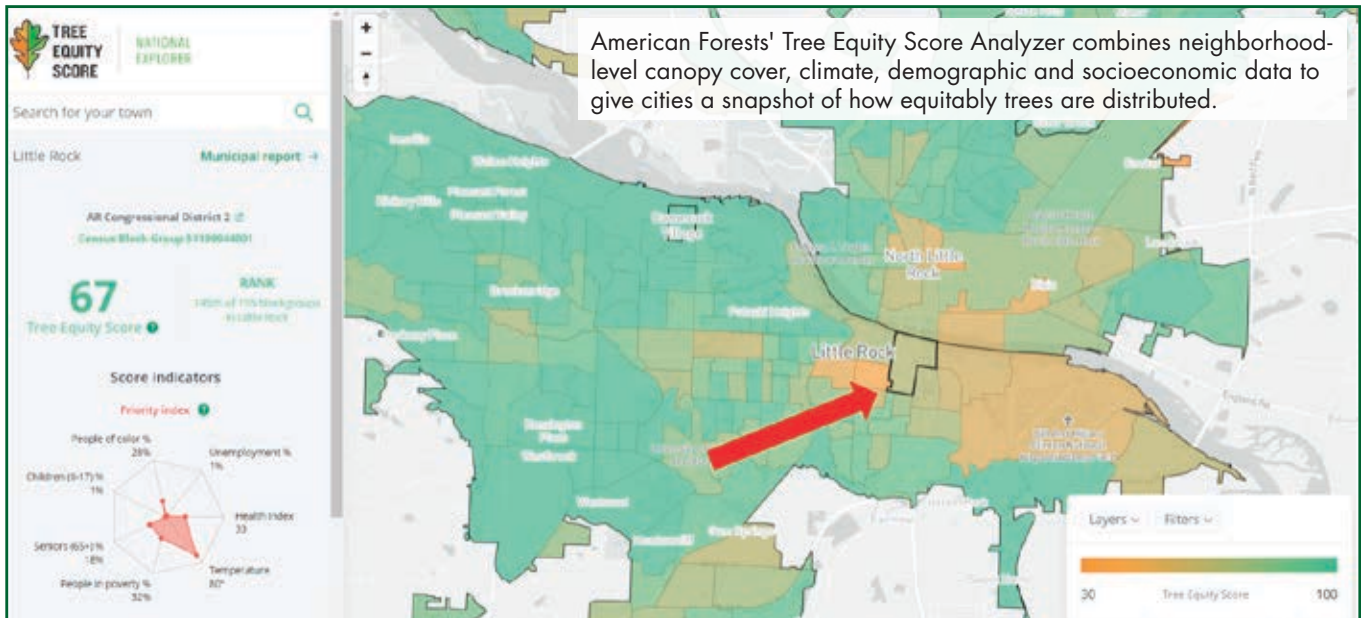
An urban heat island absorbs and retains significantly more heat than the surrounding areas, with the temperature difference being larger at night and most apparent when winds are weak. Unfortunately, there are more urban heat islands in areas where poverty is rampant, creating an even larger gap between the health and well-being of a community's wealthiest and poorest residents.

## Tree equity

While many communities have placed a greater emphasis on tree planting and green infrastructure development in recent years, the distribution of these improvements hasn't always been equitable. Tree equity is defined as having enough trees so all people experience the health, economic and other benefits that trees provide. Adding 20 trees to a town's urban tree inventory increases the overall tree canopy cover percentage for the community. However, if all 20 trees are planted in one park, while vacant lots and vast plains of concrete still exist in underserved areas of town, the whole community loses out on the benefits of those trees. If the trees were providing shade and storm-water runoff in an area of town where residents can least afford to make those improvements, the whole community would benefit from the improved tree equity and reduced heat islands.

In June, American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation organization, released a nationwide tally of Tree Equity Scores, which help identify neighborhoods where the most significant health, economic and climate benefits can be gained by increasing tree canopy. The Tree Equity Scores showed that neighborhoods largely populated by racial minorities have an average of 33-percent less tree canopy than predominantly white neighborhoods. The scores also indicated that neighborhoods with 90 percent or more of their residents living in poverty have 41 percent less tree canopy than wealthier neighborhoods with 10 percent or less of the population in poverty.

In the state of Washington, demographic research and location-based data mapping pointed to a link between where people live and their life expectancy, with a variance of as much as 10 years. Combining the most recent census data and demographics with spatial analysis maps can provide government leaders and social justice advocates with a clear, location-based visual tool to promote projects that will improve the quality of life for all citizens.



SOURCE: WWW.TREEEQUITYSCORE.ORG

American Forests' Tree Equity Score Analyzer combines neighborhood-level canopy cover, climate, demographic and socioeconomic data to give cities a snapshot of how equitably trees are distributed.

## Action steps

To help create tree equity across Arkansas, trees must be planted in neighborhoods that need them the most, and providing long-term care (including funding sources for that care) for existing trees must become a priority. Communities that want to investigate their own Tree Equity Scores (TES) and see which locations are most in need of increased canopy cover can now access an interactive map and data tool at [www.treeequityscore.org/analyzer](http://www.treeequityscore.org/analyzer). The Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA) has multiple layers that can be utilized to help policymakers focus on planting trees and caring for established trees in the areas that would most benefit.

Arkansas' largest cities are already mapped on the TESA, and smaller municipalities can work with American Forests to develop TESAs for their communities as well. Lower scores point to a greater need for beneficial tree canopy cover. Arkansas' urban areas show a broad range of scores. In the Little Rock area, for instance, one neighborhood with a TES of 27 is bordered by a neighborhood with a TES of 100. Utilizing the layering tools to dig deeper into demographic data reveals a poverty rate of 21 percent in the neighborhood with a TES of 100, and a 41 percent poverty rate in the adjacent area with a score of 27. Furthermore, the lower scoring neighborhood is home to twice as many racial minority community members. Science-driven data such as this can be useful in advocating for increased canopy cover and green spaces in the lower-scoring area.

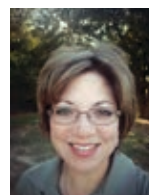
Ways to use TES and information from the TESA to increase tree equity are:

- Advocating for targeted tree canopy investments;
- Downloading the data to analyze and research the tree canopy gaps and opportunities in a particular area;

- Utilizing an area's score to write news articles about local tree equity issues;
- Reaching out to local elected officials with their jurisdiction's TES and asking for increased support for green spaces;
- Educating family, friends or classmates about why tree equity matters and how it affects health and well-being;
- Reaching out to the American Forests team to partner on creating an analyzer for a particular area;
- Joining the conversation on social media and sharing an area's TES using #TreeEquity; and
- Using TES to promote tree equity-focused urban forestry project funding from investors and grants.

"We need to make sure the trees go where the people are," said Jad Daley, president and CEO of American Forests. "More than 70 percent of the people live in cities or suburbs, so it's a place-based problem with a place-based solution. Tree Equity Score steers us in the right direction, and now it's up to all of us to go beyond business as usual and take bold action."

Phoenix, Detroit and Baltimore are currently working with American Forests on projects such as creating a citywide tree equity program, funding and building tree nurseries on underutilized city-owned land, and developing an urban forestry training program that meets U.S. Department of Labor pre-apprenticeship standards. Similar programs could be successful in Arkansas, but they need environmental justice advocates and state and local leaders to promote and champion them. 🌳



Krissy Kimbro is the urban and community forestry coordinator for Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division. Contact Krissy at 479-228-7929 or email [kristine.kimbrow@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:kristine.kimbrow@agriculture.arkansas.gov).



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

The Rock Island Bridge and Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, viewed from the North Little Rock side of the Arkansas River in late May 2019. Heavy rains that spring caused flooding along the river across the entire state.

## Staying above water: Floodplain development

By Jay Whisker, PE, CFM

**T**he housing market continues to grow into areas of our cities and counties that have not been previously developed. People often want to live close to the water, whether it's a stream, river or lake. These areas are beautiful places to build a house, but they may need further evaluation. Drainage areas such as streams and rivers almost always include a floodplain or floodway that requires good planning and engineering practices. By planning where the water will travel during high flows and using that information to either make levees or raise house structures above this flow level, the city can help owners keep their property safe.

Levees have long been used to protect property. It was just two years ago that the Arkansas River flooded from the state's western boundary all the way to the Mississippi River. The levees along the river helped keep the river from flooding the adjacent landowners' property. However, as we found out during and after the flood, the levees did not perform as needed in some areas. Some had drainpipes that wouldn't close,

some were sliding and needed shoring up, and some had areas that were overtopped or close to it. While levees are a good floodplain management tool, there are others as well.

During the first stages of development, any flood zones should be shown on the survey map. An "A" zone represents areas of flooding that do not include elevation estimates that show the height of the flooding river or stream.

An "AE" zone shows not only the elevation of the waterway, but also what is known as the floodway within the floodplain. If all the land surrounding the waterway was developed, the floodway would have to rise an additional one foot.

An "X" zone on the map indicates an area outside the 100-year floodplain.

These mapped areas of flooding are called flood insurance rate maps, or FIRM, and every community should have a map of the floodplains in their area. A great resource for finding these areas is the FEMA map service center on the agency's website, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Now that the areas of the floodplain within a proposed development have been surveyed and mapped, what's next to help prevent flooding? If there is an "A" zone on the map, it will not show floodwater elevation. If the development is more than five acres, or 50 lots or more, then an engineering study will be required in order to determine the elevation of the flooding waters. There are several methods to accomplish this task, but using a program developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called HEC-RAS is the most common.

Once the floodplain elevation has been determined, there are several ways to ensure that flood waters do not enter your structure. Some developers raise the height of the property above the floodplain with fill dirt while allowing the waterway to continue to flow unimpeded below. This method requires submitting a Letter of Map Revision-Fill, or LOMR-F in order to show that the land has been removed from the floodplain using fill. When using this method, remember that everything that is not raised may still flood. If the roads are below the needed elevation, then those roads may collect water, making them unusable during a flooding event.

Another method is to raise the elevation of the houses and structures themselves. This method allows for floodwaters to flow under the house and flood the land, not the structure. You've likely seen houses in flooding areas built on poles. If a house in the flooding area is enclosed at the bottom, vents must be placed on two sides to allow the floodwaters to enter and then to recede. In both scenarios it is important to remember that habitation of the areas under the house will possibly be in violation of existing floodplain ordinances. Also remember to elevate any equipment outside of the house, such as the air conditioner, so water does not ruin it as well.

These are just a few examples of how to handle development in floodplains. If specific needs arise in your community, reach out to an engineer or floodplain manager to help guide you through the process. 🏠



*Jay Whisker is a professional engineer and certified floodplain manager in MCE's Transportation Department. He works out of the Little Rock office. Contact Jay by phone at 501-371-0272, or email him at [jwhisker@mce.us.com](mailto:jwhisker@mce.us.com).*



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# The Arkansas Municipal League Workers' Comp Program Fraud Tipline

To report suspected fraud by someone who is currently receiving benefits, please call:

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Workers' compensation fraud is NOT a victimless crime.  
Insurance fraud costs honest Americans \$80 billion or more each year.\*



A third party manages this completely anonymous line. If you would like to report suspected fraud by someone currently receiving benefits, please leave as much detail as possible—including their name and why you think they are committing fraud. Rest assured, your information is completely anonymous.

If you are willing to be contacted by us for further details, please let us know and supply contact information. Someone will reach out to you. We are happy to use any secure communications platform you choose.

**Foster Heavy Duty Services**  
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White Hall AR 71602  
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1530@ exit 36



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\$29,500



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## Nominations open for 2021 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards

**T**he Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Communications and Community Engagement is accepting nominations beginning August 16 for the 2021 Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The deadline to apply is October 22.

Each year DHS partners with the Governor's Office and the Arkansas Municipal League, along with Little Rock's Channel 4 and the Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism,

to recognize cities and towns that seek to address the greatest needs within their communities through volunteerism. A panel of judges from across the state will select the communities, which will be honored at the League's 2022 Winter Conference. Winners also receive two signs donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission designating the city or town as a Volunteer Community of the Year.

For more information and support materials, visit [www.volunteerar.org/coy-nomination](http://www.volunteerar.org/coy-nomination).

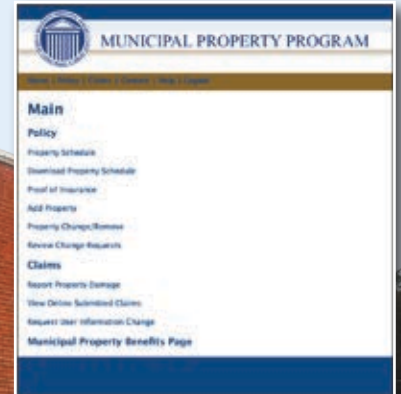


# Visit the Municipal Property Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal: [www.arml.org/mpp](http://www.arml.org/mpp)

Manage your municipal property coverage needs online at [www.arml.org/mpp](http://www.arml.org/mpp). Members can make changes to their municipal policy, add/delete properties, and file and view claims.

Create an MPP interactive account by emailing [mpp@arml.org](mailto:mpp@arml.org) your:

- City Name and/or Account Number
- First and Last Name
- Phone Number



For more information including a free quote on either of these programs, call 501-978-6123.



# Visit the Municipal Vehicle Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal:

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



Manage your municipal fleet's coverage needs online at [www.arml.org/mvp](http://www.arml.org/mvp). Members can make changes to their municipal policies, add/delete vehicles, and file and view claims. Create an MVP interactive account by emailing [mvp@arml.org](mailto:mvp@arml.org) your:

- City Name and/or Account Number
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# Maximize Your Benefit

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MHBP provides coverage to 350 entities.  
And that number is growing!

Download the  
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[www.arml.org/mhbp](http://www.arml.org/mhbp)

In 2021 the Program offers:

- ◆ Optional Routine Dental and Vision Benefits
- ◆ Optional Life & AD&D Coverage
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- ◆ Preventative Care
- ◆ Coverage for Adult Dependents age 19 to 26 years
- ◆ Special Bariatric Surgery & Chemical Dependency Programs



The Municipal Health Benefit Program provides quality health protection for your officials and employees at a reasonable rate.

For further information, please call 501-978-6126.



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

# 2020/2021 State Turnback Funds

<b>Actual Totals Per Capita</b>						
	<b>STREET</b>		<b>SEVERANCE TAX</b>		<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
January	\$6.789	\$6.659	\$0.083	\$0.071	\$2.145	\$1.951
February	\$6.340	\$6.607	\$0.118	\$0.163	\$1.087	\$0.893
March	\$5.758	\$5.693	\$0.101	\$0.110	\$1.087	\$0.892
April	\$6.088	\$6.135	\$0.064	\$0.162	\$0.924	\$0.889
May	\$5.943	\$7.568	\$0.034	\$0.258	\$0.924	\$0.890
June	\$5.605	\$6.753	\$0.030	\$0.206	\$0.924	\$1.665
July	\$6.094	\$7.303	\$0.022	\$0.163	\$2.795	\$4.306
August	\$6.478		\$0		\$1.542	
September	\$6.399		\$0.014		\$0.728	
October	\$6.378		\$0.021		\$0.893	
November	\$6.340		\$0.060		\$0.893	
December	\$5.984		\$0.105		\$0.893	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$74.197</b>	<b>\$46.716</b>	<b>\$0.652</b>	<b>\$1.133</b>	<b>\$14.838</b>	<b>\$11.485</b>

<b>Actual Totals Per Month</b>						
	<b>STREET</b>		<b>SEVERANCE TAX</b>		<b>GENERAL</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
January	\$12,833,880.33	\$12,587,621.61	\$156,199.64	\$134,647.89	* \$4,054,970.57	* \$3,688,464.32
February	\$11,984,924.80	\$12,488,753.05	\$223,221.26	\$308,183.56	\$2,055,049.55	\$1,688,281.84
March	\$10,883,990.67	\$10,760,836.82	\$191,150.53	\$207,709.60	\$2,055,396.67	\$1,685,424.74
April	\$11,509,342.85	\$11,627,333.33	\$120,647.65	\$307,147.46	\$1,747,446.98	\$1,684,913.88
May	\$11,233,895.61	\$14,343,742.05	\$63,817.15	\$489,324.42	\$1,747,094.76	\$1,687,137.50
June	\$10,595,347.60	\$12,799,319.93	\$57,224.47	\$390,405.22	\$1,747,446.98	\$3,154,867.86
July	\$11,520,392.64	\$13,841,564.30	\$41,735.92	\$309,031.02	** \$5,284,317.00	*** \$8,160,945.43
August	\$12,263,537.56		\$0		\$2,919,346.12	
September	\$12,097,147.76		\$26,456.51		\$1,376,535.41	
October	\$12,057,206.89		\$39,675.17		\$1,688,464.32	
November	\$11,984,780.59		\$113,060.67		\$1,688,281.98	
December	\$11,312,336.38		\$199,121.43		\$1,688,464.32	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$140,276,783.68</b>	<b>\$88,449,171.09</b>	<b>\$1,232,310.40</b>	<b>\$2,146,449.17</b>	<b>\$28,052,814.66</b>	<b>\$21,750,035.57</b>

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

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

\*\*\*Includes \$3,513,480.88 supplemental for July 2021

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2021 with 2020 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax	Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$68,199,990	\$62,951,910	\$59,726,912	\$54,023,046	\$127,926,902	\$116,974,957	\$14,602	\$137,620
February	\$79,611,239	\$73,128,305	\$68,300,663	\$61,276,755	\$147,911,902	\$134,405,060	\$20,412	\$151,340
March	\$66,877,931	\$57,761,974	\$57,918,592	\$49,863,364	\$124,796,523	\$107,625,338	\$13,492	\$140,860
April	\$60,600,707	\$58,720,966	\$53,282,134	\$50,676,002	\$113,882,841	\$109,396,969	\$16,537	\$173,069
May	\$83,488,059	\$64,061,809	\$73,792,913	\$55,167,274	\$157,280,972	\$118,762,027	\$10,492	\$51,758
June	\$78,858,097	\$61,816,632	\$67,860,902	\$54,700,218	\$146,718,999	\$120,220,830	\$9,681	\$37,445
July	\$76,784,978	\$66,569,122	\$65,778,959	\$58,404,198	\$142,563,936	\$127,921,569	\$12,566	\$27,240
August		\$69,810,263		\$61,352,447		\$132,096,586		\$22,963
September		\$69,731,104		\$62,286,322		\$132,017,426		\$14,982
October		\$67,795,513		\$60,898,642		\$128,694,156		\$13,552
November		\$70,085,468		\$62,498,473		\$132,583,941		\$12,579
December		\$67,813,178		\$60,080,515		\$127,893,693		\$14,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$514,421,000</b>	<b>\$790,246,247</b>	<b>\$446,661,075</b>	<b>\$691,227,256</b>	<b>\$961,082,075</b>	<b>\$1,488,592,551</b>	<b>\$97,782</b>	<b>\$797,777</b>
Averages	\$73,488,714	\$65,853,854	\$63,808,725	\$57,602,271	\$137,297,439	\$124,049,379	\$13,969	\$66,481



Black Oak	6,026.61	5,188.46	Independence County	641,502.50	613,098.98	Bassett	2,624.71	1,966.73	Waldron	35,978.39	33,255.01
Bono	49,017.95	42,200.83	Batesville	174,715.77	166,979.96	Birdsong	622.04	466.10	Searcy County	98,306.11	84,097.58
Brookland	45,291.57	38,992.70	Cave City	2,761.90	2,639.61	Blytheville	236,982.28	177,574.54	Big Flat	9.62	8.23
Caraway	29,419.97	25,328.42	Cushman	7,706.04	7,364.85	Burdette	2,897.80	2,171.37	Gilbert	269.24	230.33
Cash	7,866.79	6,772.73	Magness	3,443.85	3,291.37	Dell	3,383.29	2,535.16	Leslie	4,240.52	3,627.63
Egypt	2,576.26	2,217.97	Moorefield	2,335.68	2,232.27	Dyess	6,220.41	4,661.05	Marshall	13,029.27	11,146.11
Jonesboro	1,547,205.18	1,332,029.36	Newark	20,049.35	19,161.63	Etowah	5,325.27	3,990.31	Pindall	1,076.96	921.30
Lake City	47,890.83	41,230.47	Oil Trough	4,432.68	4,236.42	Gosnell	53,829.27	40,335.11	St. Joe	1,269.27	1,085.81
Monette	34,526.49	29,724.76	Pleasant Plains	5,950.02	5,686.57	Joiner	8,738.91	6,548.20	Sebastian County	1,021,766.98	909,595.88
Crawford County	939,919.57	883,965.08	Southside	66,507.24	63,562.53	Keiser	11,515.34	8,628.62	Baring	93,384.60	83,132.70
Alma	68,403.00	64,330.89	Sulphur Rock	7,774.24	7,430.01	Leachville	30,237.24	22,657.24	Bonanza	11,550.04	10,282.06
Cedarville	17,596.20	16,548.67	Izard County	56,349.07	53,945.27	Luxora	17,872.29	13,391.98	Central City	10,083.69	8,976.69
Chester	2,007.03	1,887.55	Jackson County	315,901.62	313,308.29	Manila	50,703.89	37,993.22	Fort Smith	1,731,682.78	1,541,576.09
Dyer	11,057.58	10,399.31	Amagon	1,133.04	1,123.74	Marie	1,274.42	954.95	Greenwood	179,819.09	160,078.29
Kibler	12,130.52	11,408.38	BeeDeville	1,237.10	1,226.94	Osceola	117,687.04	88,184.74	Hackett	16,310.67	14,520.06
Mountainburg	7,964.99	7,490.83	Campbell Station	2,948.22	2,924.02	Victoria	561.35	426.63	Hartford	12,895.87	11,480.15
Mulberry	20,890.75	19,647.10	Diaz	15,238.24	15,113.15	Wilson	13,700.06	10,265.67	Huntington	12,755.26	11,354.97
Rudy	769.99	724.15	Grubbs	4,462.79	4,426.16	Monroe County	NA	NA	Lavaca	45,979.21	40,931.55
Van Buren	287,686.42	270,560.12	Jacksonport	2,451.07	2,430.95	Montgomery County	252,609.10	224,211.76	Mansfield	14,522.97	12,928.57
Crittenden County	911,936.77	1,482,301.74	Newport	91,094.17	90,346.35	Black Springs	938.96	833.41	Midland	6,528.28	5,811.60
Anthonyville	1,331.97	1,203.38	Swifton	9,226.19	9,150.45	Glenwood	398.35	353.57	Sevier County	547,522.64	508,193.03
Clarkedale	3,069.32	2,773.00	Tuckerman	21,527.78	21,351.05	Mount Ida	10,205.28	9,058.04	Ben Lomond	1,779.10	1,651.30
Crawfordsville	3,962.82	3,580.24	Tupelo	2,081.10	2,064.01	Norman	3,585.13	3,182.10	De Queen	80,905.88	75,094.25
Earle	19,971.27	18,043.21	Weldon	867.12	859.99	Oden	2,200.39	1,953.03	Gilham	1,963.14	1,822.12
Edmondson	3,532.62	3,191.57	Jefferson County	478,488.92	546,646.08	Nevada County	123,031.71	141,169.65	Horatio	12,809.48	11,889.33
Gilmore	1,958.25	1,769.19	Altheimer	11,993.69	13,702.10	Bluff City	1,132.67	1,299.65	Lockesburg	9,067.25	8,415.93
Horseshoe Lake	2,415.75	2,182.53	Humphrey	3,754.12	4,288.87	Bodcaw	1,260.55	1,446.39	Sharp County	296,555.78	286,358.18
Jennette	856.27	773.60	Pine Bluff	598,258.18	683,475.56	Cale	721.62	828.01	Ash Flat	13,746.97	13,274.25
Jericho	984.50	889.45	Redfield	15,808.75	18,060.59	Emmet	4,338.86	4,978.51	Cave City	24,435.94	23,595.67
Marion	102,311.47	92,271.49	Sherrill	1,023.85	1,169.69	Prescott	30,107.10	34,545.64	Cherokee Village	54,398.72	52,528.12
Sunset	1,474.26	1,331.94	Wabbaseka	3,108.12	3,550.85	Rosston	2,384.09	2,735.56	Evening Shade	6,059.89	5,851.51
Turrell	4,579.16	4,137.08	White Hall	67,354.78	76,948.95	Willisville	1,388.43	1,593.12	Hardy	10,240.09	9,887.97
West Memphis	217,127.59	196,165.67	Johnson County	154,076.16	140,761.44	Newton County	57,017.07	46,691.78	Highland	14,658.76	14,154.69
Cross County	561,501.13	557,516.76	Clarksville	113,174.15	103,394.04	Jasper	3,552.13	2,908.87	Horseshoe Bend	112.22	108.36
Cherry Valley	8,458.57	8,398.55	Coal Hill	12,479.00	11,400.61	Western Grove	2,927.08	2,397.01	Sidney	2,538.98	2,451.67
Hickory Ridge	3,534.15	3,509.07	Hartman	6,399.80	5,846.75	Ouchita County	588,905.83	753,780.50	Williford	1,052.06	1,015.89
Parkin	14,357.49	14,255.61	Knoxville	9,013.98	8,235.02	Bearden	11,405.38	11,569.17	St. Francis County	460,137.37	410,143.67
Wynne	108,714.10	107,942.68	Lamar	19,791.30	18,081.01	Camden	143,842.33	145,908.07	Caldwell	1,317.86	10,088.18
Dallas County	166,200.88	169,460.61	Lafayette County	87,984.75	77,817.97	Chidister	3,412.17	3,461.17	Colt	7,708.38	6,870.86
Desha County	126,223.57	124,641.27	Bradley	4,146.60	3,667.45	East Camden	10,992.14	11,150.00	Forrest City	313,453.80	279,397.20
Arkansas City	4,885.04	4,823.80	Buckner	1,815.79	1,605.97	Louann	1,936.32	1,964.12	Hughes	29,385.66	26,192.92
Dumas	62,811.48	62,024.09	Lewisville	8,451.66	7,475.06	Stephens	10,519.85	10,670.94	Madison	15,681.86	13,978.04
McGehee	56,311.44	55,605.53	Stamps	11,178.63	9,886.92	Perry County	161,263.92	126,581.80	Palestine	13,887.32	12,378.48
Mitchellville	4,804.96	4,744.72	Lawrence County	373,607.41	349,870.60	Adona	1,293.14	1,269.39	Wheatley	7,239.36	6,452.80
Reed	2,295.70	2,266.92	Alicia	1,008.08	944.03	Bigelow	1,949.00	1,913.19	Widener	5,567.16	4,962.30
Tillar	280.29	276.78	Black Rock	5,381.85	5,039.92	Casa	1,058.03	1,038.59	Stone County	200,896.98	109,184.70
Watson	2,816.23	2,780.95	Hoxie	22,600.50	21,164.60	Fourche	383.61	376.56	Fifty Six	2,217.94	1,993.98
Drew County	476,902.77	191,849.58	Imboden	5,503.79	5,154.11	Houston	1,070.40	1,050.74	Mountain View	35,230.69	31,673.13
Jerome	595.04	586.91	Lynn	2,341.35	2,192.59	Perry	1,670.57	1,639.88	Union County	590,838.99	524,354.38
Monticello	144,441.32	142,469.75	Minturn	886.13	829.83	Perryville	9,033.44	8,867.48	Calion	17,224.86	15,286.62
Tillar	3,112.50	3,070.01	Portia	3,552.67	3,326.95	Phillips County	203,148.61	138,529.64	El Dorado	733,414.56	650,886.51
Wilmar	7,796.51	7,690.09	Powhatan	585.34	548.15	Elaine	9,763.27	15,507.25	Feisenthal	4,220.65	3,745.72
Winchester	2,547.97	2,513.20	Ravenden	3,820.95	3,578.19	Helena-West Helena	188,452.79	245,728.04	Huttig	23,608.62	20,952.04
Faulkner County	1,024,921.27	892,408.21	Sedgwick	1,235.71	1,157.20	Lake View	6,797.43	10,801.44	Junction City	21,059.03	18,689.33
Enola	3,120.88	2,717.37	Smithville	634.11	593.83	Lexa	4,381.80	6,973.39	Norphlet	26,570.81	23,580.90
Holland	5,142.98	4,478.04	Strawberry	2,455.16	2,299.18	Marvell	18,201.40	28,917.63	Smackover	69,904.62	62,038.55
Mount Vernon	1,338.84	1,165.74	Walnut Ridge	43,396.22	40,639.07	Pike County	223,304.25	204,122.16	Strong	19,889.54	17,651.45
Twin Groves	3,093.18	2,693.26	Lee County	39,334.24	38,714.82	Antoine	1,432.07	1,309.05	Van Buren County	239,724.54	332,027.19
Wooster	7,940.68	6,914.03	Aubrey	1,218.89	1,199.69	Daisy	1,407.59	1,286.67	Clinton	30,214.50	29,493.88
Franklin County	182,002.49	258,592.55	Haynes	1,075.49	1,058.55	Delight	3,414.93	3,121.58	Damascus	2,903.01	2,833.77
Altus	1,013.94	8,033.43	LaGrange	638.12	628.07	Glenwood	26,756.37	24,457.96	Fairfield Bay	25,032.92	24,427.10
Branch	490.92	3,889.54	Marianna	29,504.27	29,039.65	Murfreesboro	20,085.64	18,360.25	Shirley	3,379.10	3,298.51
Charleston	3,373.56	26,728.66	Moro	1,548.71	1,524.32	Poinsett County	294,106.71	276,700.86	Washington County	3,092,267.97	1,663,353.77
Denning	2,100.11	4,806.88	Rondo	1,419.64	1,397.30	Fisher	2,411.13	2,268.44	Elkins	58,958.66	49,985.79
Ozark	4,927.92	39,043.77	Lincoln County	149,707.13	151,313.11	Harrisburg	24,889.80	23,416.77	Elm Springs	39,097.96	33,147.68
Wiederkkehr Village	50.83	402.74	Gould	5,071.43	5,125.83	Lepanto	20,467.59	19,256.27	Farmington	133,013.22	112,770.07
Fulton County	258,063.58	219,446.13	Grady	2,720.52	2,749.70	Marked Tree	27,744.23	26,102.27	Fayetteville	1,638,284.71	1,388,955.74
Ash Flat	647.95	550.99	Star City	13,778.29	13,926.10	Trumann	78,886.18	74,217.52	Goshen	23,846.19	20,217.06
Cherokee Village	5,037.49	4,283.66	Little River County	310,934.58	344,348.60	Tyrnauza	8,238.93	7,751.34	Greenland	28,811.37	24,226.59
Hardy	266.80	226.88	Ashdown	46,788.85	51,816.93	Waldenburg	659.55	620.51	Johnson	74,678.00	63,312.82
Horseshoe Bend	107.99	91.83	Foreman	10,015.57	11,091.87	Weiner	7,741.57	7,283.41	Lincoln	50,074.78	42,453.95
Mammoth Spring	6,206.34	5,277.60	Ogden	1,783.19	1,974.81	Poik County	319,250.90	304,246.67	Prairie Grove	98,546.45	83,548.76
Salem	10,386.25	8,832.02	Wilton	3,705.07	4,103.22	Cove	9,576.28	9,126.20	Springdale	1,429,324.37	1,211,796.87
Viola	1,820.43	1,810.43	Winthrop	1,902.05	2,106.47	Grannis	13,888.10	13,235.38	Tontitown	54,772.77	46,326.95
Garland County	2,803,098.43	2,494,910.43	Logan County	361,407.57	348,063.40	Hattfield	10,353.40	9,866.82	West Fork	51,588.82	43,737.57
Fountain Lake	9,592.24	8,537.62	Blue Mountain	1,282.69	1,235.33	Mena	143,819.58	137,060.32	Winslow	8,705.76	7,380.85
Hot Springs	310,005.75	275,921.98	Boneville	41,273.58	39,749.64	Vandervoort	2,180.98	2,078.48	White County	1,391,385.09	1,318,110.83
Lonsdale	1,792.59	1,595.50	Caulksville	2,203.33	2,121.97	Wickes	18,901.88	18,013.52	Bald Knob	43,013.09	40,747.88
Mountain Pine	14,683.96	13,069.51	Magazine	8,761.58	8,438.08	Pope County	435,072.88	420,614.95	Beebe	108,609.16	102,889.46
Grant County	268,291.51	250,772.98	Morrison Bluff	662.03	637.59	Atkins	52,251.02	50,514.66	Bradford	11,269.22	10,675.75
Greene County	441,527.13	627,826.32	Paris	36,535.91	35,186.90	Dover	23,873.31	23,079.97	Garner	4,216.68	3,994.61
Delaplaine	1,754.81	1,619.46	Ratcliff	2,089.54	2,012.39	Hector	7,796.07	7,537.00	Georgetown	1,841.08	1,744.13
Lafe	6,928.47	6,394.07	Scranton	2,317.11	2,231.56	London	18,000.27	17,402.10	Griffithville	3,340.68	3,164.75
Marmaduke	16,806.83	15,510.50	Subiaco	5,916.91	5,698.45	Pottsville	49,167.24	47,533.36	Higginson	9,220.27	8,734.70
Oak Grove Heights	13,448.49	12,411.19	Lonoke County	388,605.48	355,838.35	Russellville	483,703.05	467,629.11	Judsonia	29,977.02	28,398.34
Paragould	395,028.49	364,528.49	Allport	1,571.37	1,438.87	Prairie County	83,095.19	80,076.56	Kensett	24,468.61	23,180.02
Hempstead County	735,105.00	427,328.76	Austin	27,847.33	25,499.25	Biscoe	3,452.99	3,327.55			

# MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at [citytown@arml.org](mailto:citytown@arml.org) or call 501-374-3484. 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.

**ASSOCIATE STAFF ATTORNEY**—The city of Bentonville is seeking applicants for the position of associate staff attorney. Hiring salary range is \$82,243 - \$111,145 annually DOE. Performs a wide scope of municipal legal work, including rendering of legal advice to city staff, boards and commissions as assigned, preparing and reviewing complex legal documents, including contracts, ordinances and resolutions as assigned, representing the city and city officers and employees in administrative hearings and civil litigation. Interprets civil laws, rulings, and regulations for city administrative officials and employees as assigned. Represents city in civil litigation and other civil legal proceedings as assigned. Prepares and reviews business contracts and administers other civil legal matters as assigned. Reviews grant applications, agreements, assurances and advises regarding compliance. Advises city administrative staff on business contracts and agreements as assigned. Represents the city before various boards and commissions as assigned. Also assists senior staff attorney in handling criminal matters as required. Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school required and seven years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of advanced education and experience, with an emphasis on contract law, corporate law and/or administrative law. Hands-on experience in city, county or state government, with an emphasis in contract law, community planning, and Federal Aviation Administration regulations is highly desired. Admission to the Arkansas Bar, admission to U.S. District Court and Attorney's License required. Interested applicants can send resume to HR Manager Ed Wheeler, [ewheeler@bentonvillear.com](mailto:ewheeler@bentonvillear.com).

**CITY ATTORNEY**—The town of Menifee is accepting resumes for a qualified prosecuting/city attorney to provide legal services. Minimum qualifications: JD from a school of law accredited by the American Bar Association and three years of experience in the practice of law, including two years of experience representing a public entity. Active membership in the Arkansas State Bar Association. Deadline for all resumes: August 5, 2021. Submit all resumes to Mayor Gary Green [atmayorglnmenifee@gmail.com](mailto:atmayorglnmenifee@gmail.com) or mail to City of Menifee, P.O. Box 38, Menifee, AR 72107.

**DISTRICT COURT CLERK**—The city of Monticello is accepting applications for the position of deputy court clerk in the Drew County District Court. Applicant should have general administrative knowledge, a willingness to learn and the ability to communicate effectively with co-workers and the public. Must be willing to obtain specialized training. Salary DOE. Full benefits package provided. Deadline to apply is August 14. For more information call 870-367-4400. Applications can be picked-up and submitted at City Hall, 203 West Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655; or an application with resume can be submitted on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or [Ziprecruiter.com](https://www.ziprecruiter.com).

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**—Diamond City is seeking a public works director with 3-5 years' experience; they will be responsible for various administrative and managerial duties and will be under the supervision of the mayor. One of the essential duties of a public works director is the ability to supervise the activities of various departments and employees within the public work sector. These departments include streets, water, sanitation, parks and grounds, utilities and equipment maintenance. A Level 1 Water and Sewage License is needed or the ability to obtain soon. Individual should have basic word processing, spreadsheet and math skills. Insurance and benefits included with a complete salary. Job applications may be picked up at Diamond City, City Hall, 232 Grand Ave., Diamond City. Application is also available on the Diamond City website, [www.diamondcityar.com](http://www.diamondcityar.com). Please call 870-422-7212 if you have any questions.

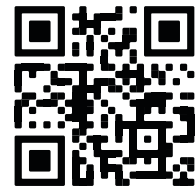
**WATER UTILITIES MANAGER**—Mena Water Utilities (MWU) is seeking applications for a general manager to direct the operations and oversee the finances of the utility. Applicants should have either a bachelor's degree in management or equivalent experience. Applicants with water utility experience and background preferred. Relevant attributes include knowledge of water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collection, accounting and financial controls, and state and federal regulations. Must possess a Class IV Water Treatment, Class III Water Distribution and Grade III Wastewater licenses, or the ability to obtain them within a reasonable, agreed-upon period. Must be able to maintain positive team environment and balance current utility demands with future goals and performance requirements. Salary commensurate with experience and licenses held. Applications with resumes and copies of certifications will be accepted at the Arkansas Employment Security Department, 479-394-3060, Mena, Arkansas, until the position is filled. The city of Mena is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**PUBLIC WORKS LEAD- WATER OPERATOR**—The city of Monticello is taking applications for a FT public works lead–water operator. To be considered applicant must possess the following: Arkansas DL, Distribution and Treatment Water Operator Licensing Class 4, HS diploma or GED. A qualified candidate must have the ability to adapt to various environmental conditions. An acceptable applicant should have at least 2 years or more of experience working within a water or public works department. At least 2 years of experience taking water samplings and carryout out treatment. At least 1 year of experience supervising others in the area of water treatment and distribution and be willing to train other operators in training. The city is seeking an energetic individual who has the capability and knowledge of communicating with The Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality as well as various other organizations in order to maintain city compliance with all required standards set forth by these entities. The public works lead–water operator will be expected to communicate effectively with the public works superintendent, mayor and utility manager on a daily basis of concerns and issues that may arise. On-the-job training provided. Salary range is \$18.00 - \$30.00 per hour; position is eligible for overtime. Full benefits package included. Interested applicants can pick up application from City Hall at 203 West Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F. Applicants can also apply online at [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or [Ziprecruiter.com](https://www.ziprecruiter.com) with a resume or can email Patty Burchett for an application at [pburchett@cityofmonticelloar.com](mailto:pburchett@cityofmonticelloar.com). For more information, please contact Patty Burchett at 870-367-4400 or email at [montcitypatty@att.net](mailto:montcitypatty@att.net). Position open until filled.

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