

# City & Town

FEBRUARY 2022 VOL. 78, NO. 02

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—The League was honored in January to host the sixth annual observance of the National Day of Racial Healing, and dozens of municipalities across the state again passed local proclamations in recognition of this important event and its call for justice and community transformation. Pictured are executive director of Just Communities of Arkansas Hilary Trudell, center, with co-conveners of the Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement, Kwami and Clarice Abdul-Bey and their son Loren. Read about the NDORH inside on page 26. Read also about how “long COVID” may affect employment policies under the ADA and about the League’s decision to move the 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference to March.—atm

## Features

**20 Racial healing through local action**  
 The League hosted the Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement and other community partners on January 18 to observe the 2022 National Day of Racial Healing, which kicked off a weeklong schedule of events with the goal of achieving racial justice and transformational change for generations to come.

**22 “Long COVID” and the ADA**  
 For many who have contracted COVID-19, a range of so-called “long COVID” symptoms persist, and for some it may even constitute a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act based on new guidance from the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

**24 League reschedules 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference**  
 Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the state, due in large part to the Omicron variant, the Arkansas Municipal League has rescheduled its 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference for March 26-28 at the Little Rock Marriott and Statehouse Convention Center.

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Greetings, fellow municipal officials,

I originally thought my February letter would be a recap of the 2022 Winter Conference. As a matter of fact, this is the second draft of my February letter—my first was submitted just two days before we made the decision to reschedule our conference. It's not easy writing a letter that won't be published for several weeks, but our League staff keeps me in line and I appreciate all the help they provide because, as we all know, I need lots of help.

Moving our conference to March is a wise decision. As I write this, we are seeing some of the highest numbers we have seen since this pandemic started. While the current surge may not be as deadly as other strains that have passed through our communities, the sheer numbers again threaten to overwhelm our health care system. This is not acceptable, and I feel like we can do better.

As I have stated before, I have been disappointed by the response by many, including our legislators, to this pandemic. It almost seems we are taking an "everyone for himself" response instead of a "let's all work together and beat this thing" attitude. Many of you are like me and can remember when polio, smallpox, measles, mumps and many other diseases were a constant worry for so many of our parents and are now almost unheard of. This is the result of science and research that we have been blessed to have. We need to stop listening to the Facebook doctors, as I call them, and start listening to the experts. We have shown in the past what can be accomplished when we work together as one country. We need to do it again.

The 2022 fiscal session of the Arkansas legislature will convene on February 14. Hopefully they will stick to the business at hand and go home. However, given what has gone on the past few times our legislators have been in session, I want to encourage everyone to stay in close contact with the League in case some surprises pop up and we need you to help stop or pass something that is going to impact our cities and towns. This is an election year, and my fear is there may be bills introduced that, rather than serve the common good, serve only to make a statement for someone seeking reelection. We can make a difference on many issues when we all speak as one for the cities and towns of Arkansas.

February is a short month, so I am going to have a shorter letter. I joke with Andrew when he calls to say it's that time again—I ask why he calls every two weeks for a monthly letter. But it is a great honor to serve as president of the League, and I welcome hearing from any of you if I can ever be of assistance. You all are doing a great job and making a difference in your communities.

Best,



Tim McKinney  
Mayor, Berryville  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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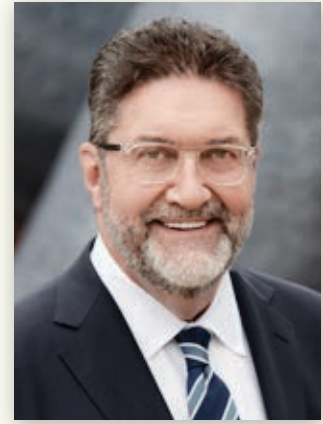
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# From the Desk of the Executive Director

Omicron,<sup>1</sup> rescheduling, isolation and February.<sup>2</sup>



As with so many other Arkansans, the local controller and I succumbed to the pandemic by getting infected with the Omicron variant. Well, I say it was Omicron—we don't have an actual test saying that. However, the circumstantial evidence seems solid. We both had congestion, dry cough, no fever but awful chills, headaches, muscle and joint pain, and exhaustion. We had a great Christmas! Not really. I got sick Christmas Eve and the local controller Christmas Day. Both the rapid antigen test and the PCR confirmed COVID, but they didn't distinguish between Delta, Omicron or the regular 'Rona. Most of the symptoms abated within 10 or so days. We were part of the initial surge. Not exactly what either one of us planned but hey, nobody says "I wanna get sick!" Well, I guess someone probably has but that seems very peculiar. Thankfully we were both vaccinated and as a result had relatively mild symptoms. Certainly way better than being in a hospital.<sup>3 4</sup>

Omicron not only hit Casa Hayes, but it wreaked havoc with League events, in particular our first ever Hybrid Winter Conference, originally scheduled for January. Alas we were forced to reschedule the conference for late March. As you might imagine, moving a three-day conference doesn't happen in an instant. Lots of coordination between a great many people is required to pull off such a move. There are several hotels that must be consulted to ensure enough rooms are available on the new dates. The convention center must be available, or at least most of it. Employees must be available, and the main hotel must be able to make all those pieces work with its schedule. It also means notifying all the speakers, exhibitors and A/V people to make sure they'll be able to handle the new date or if replacements are needed. Also, there are approximately 50 folks who take the stage during a Winter Conference. That's a lot of calendars to consult! As I'm fond of saying, aircraft carriers do not turn on a dime!<sup>5</sup>

In short, we made the decision to move the conference for the health and safety of our state regardless of the extra work involved. I didn't want municipal leaders from across the state to hit central Arkansas healthy only to fall victim to Omicron upon arriving back home. Arkansas doesn't need several hundred city officials sick at the

<sup>1</sup> The Greek alphabet is a tricky thing. For instance, eta is H. <https://bit.ly/3ruIbfg>. I studied it at ASU. Not for credit mind you. I had to study it to pass a test to become a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Beta Psi Chapter. There are several very famous members of my fraternity: Ronald Reagan (40th President of the United States), Elvis Presley (ASU Beta Psi Chapter...I've seen the pictures!), Aaron Rodgers (the GOAT), Terry Bradshaw (four-time Super Bowl winner and famous broadcaster), George Wendt (Norm!), Les Paul (musical genius and creator of the solid body electric guitar known today as the Gibson Les Paul and played in nearly every rock and roll band ever), Phil Simms (Super Bowl Champion QB of the NY Giants—and that's three NFL QBs if you're counting), Danny Thomas (St. Jude's founder and super human being), The Everly Brothers (yes, those Everly Brothers), Mike Huckabee (also ASU Beta Psi Chapter) and Lawrence Welk ("Wunnerful, wunnerful." "Ah one, and ah two and ah..."). <https://bit.ly/3GP2UAP>.

<sup>2</sup> One of the reasons I enjoy writing this column is I get to do some research on common things but wind up learning a great deal. For instance, the month of February is, as we all know, the shortest month of the Gregorian calendar. It was named after Februalia, the Roman festival of purification. See, new stuff learned. <https://bit.ly/32kP4HA>. If you really want to nerd out regarding February, take a look at this explanation about why it's only 28 days long: <https://bit.ly/3ImmXH9>.

<sup>3</sup> The CDC continues to tout vaccination and boosters as the best way to fight the pandemic. While breakthrough cases occur, like me and the local controller, the vaccines we took protected us from serious illness and hospitalization. <https://bit.ly/3rA1q7b>.

<sup>4</sup> I know many Arkansans do not believe the vaccines to be necessary. The reasons I've heard range from it's too new to having naturally developed immunity because of COVID exposure and many, many more. I have family members who have taken such stances. Interestingly, I believe those same family members have been vaccinated for other things. Regardless, I've taken the position to not argue or debate the value of getting vaccinated. To each their own. Afterall, if people haven't been convinced by the CDC, every state health department in the U.S. and medical institutions like the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins, the Cleveland Clinic and UAMS, then there's no way I'll be able to persuade them to get vaccinated.

<sup>5</sup> In fact, if you'll look at last year's February column, I made this precise comment! I went further and described the massive size and capabilities of the newest U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford. <https://bit.ly/33SOjFS>. See page 6. You should see the local controller right now. She can barely contain herself. I know she wants to say "get on with it" and "you're recycling tired material!" She feels the same way about my dad jokes. "Ain't no bad joke like a dad joke" is her usual retort.

same time. Of course, y'all would get the job done, but at what cost? Arkansas' cities and towns need to keep their good mojo!<sup>6</sup>

Isolation. It's such a scary word. Like quarantine it sends a visceral message of illness and perhaps death. For some reason, each time I hear either of those words I picture an old village with muddy streets and two-wheeled, oxen-pulled carts with what appears to be bodies under a tarp. People and their homes or businesses are shunned because the black death, the plague or some horrid ailments are taking lives left and right. The stuff of nightmares for sure.

The history of quarantines—or is it quarantining?—is fascinating.<sup>7</sup> There's evidence back to the Byzantine era, A.D. 549, of directives from the emperor Justinian to isolate and keep people away from infected areas.<sup>8</sup> In 1348 Venice established the world's first institutionalized system of quarantine.<sup>9</sup> A little closer to home, in 1738, the City of New York created a quarantine anchorage and station on and near Bedloe's Island.<sup>10</sup> That island is the home of the Statue of Liberty today.

As fate would have it, upon receipt of my positive PCR test, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) called and interviewed me. You can likely guess the questions. When did the symptoms start? What were the symptoms? Who were you around in the previous few days and how about those after the symptoms started? They also asked in-depth questions about my health. High blood pressure? Yes, hereditary. Thanks, Mom and Dad. Asthma? Yes, late onset at age 52 due to reflux. The reflux was from my children when they were teens. Ah, good times. I need an antacid. Rheumatoid arthritis? Why yes, I do now that you mention it. I realize, dear reader, that you are now rethinking my employment as the executive director. Relax, I have great doctors, I've lost 10 pounds<sup>11</sup> and I feel great. Well, except for the Omicron thing and the isolation thing. The isolation thing: 20 days post first symptoms. January 14 is my release date according to the ADH. I'm trying to be a responsible Arkansan and am adhering to the directive. I'm also going stir crazy, but such is the fate of those with Omicron 'Rona. I think they should change the name to OmiRona but I don't think they will.

Where was I? Oh yeah, isolation and stir crazy. Some people relax by reading or exercising or any number of other activities. As you know, I love movies. All kinds of movies. Well, not slasher movies but most everything else. Since I'm in isolation, when I'm not working, I watch movies.<sup>12</sup> I'm pretty sure what I'm about to admit to isn't healthy. Well, I'm nothing if not transparent. I've gotten on a movie kick related to the pandemic. Embarrassing. Even more embarrassing, I've watched a couple of them twice since Christmas Eve and I have a list of favorites. In no particular order, here are the pandemic/epidemic/virus/end-of-the-world movies that I favor<sup>13</sup>:

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<sup>6</sup> Merriam-Webster has a *Learner's Dictionary*. I learned this (see what I did there?!) when looking up the word mojo. The *Learner's Dictionary* provides the standard definition of a word, but it will also send you a new word everyday if you sign up for the service. Pretty cool. By the way, mojo means an almost magical power that leads someone to success. Thus, the sayings good mojo and bad mojo are fairly common particularly when referencing athletics. <https://bit.ly/3nKpVNP>. Side note, the local controller in training (aka the daughter) refers to all athletic events as "sports games." Typically, it goes like this: "I went shopping during the sports game."

<sup>7</sup> <https://to.pbs.org/3lIQj8D>

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> The local controller has robustly objected to my claimed weight loss. Fine, I've lost four pounds, but I intend to knock another six or so off before you get this magazine! There is serious eye rolling going on behind me.

<sup>12</sup> There are a couple of exceptions to my movie watching. If the local controller says we're watching something else, something else wins. If there's a sports game of particular interest to me, I watch that sports game. Think National Championship Title Game and of course The Green Bay Packers. The Packers are the premier football program in the land...not debatable and they play at a stadium that's a little slice of heaven. Ah, Lambeau Field. I hear the trumpets trumpeting and the choir choiring.

<sup>13</sup> *Parade* put a list together and it's pretty good. <https://bit.ly/3tIE8Z>.

- **Outbreak** (1995) Deadly Ebola-like illness spreading like wildfire. Action and a tad nerve racking. Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman.
- **Contagion** (2011) Pandemic and the sociological reactions of those facing the virus. Frightening. Starring: Marion Cotillard, Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kate Winslet.
- **World War Z** (2013) Combo of pandemic and zombie apocalypse. Action and downright scary. Starring: Brad Pitt.
- **I Am Legend**<sup>14</sup> (2007) A mutated pathogen spreads and only a U.S. Army doctor and virologist can find the cure. Gripping, scary and a little too real in some scenes. Starring: Will Smith.
- **Zombieland** (2009) Post-apocalyptic pandemic with zombies. HILARIOUS...and a bit gross. Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone and Woody Harrelson (Bill Murray in a small part and he's fantastic).

I'm sure this will come as a surprise: The local controller is beside herself. "Get to the point?" "You overshare!" "Nobody wants your movie recommendations!" Okay, I made that last one up. So, what's the point? The point is that regardless of my isolation, my illness and my fatigue, the world keeps turning. February will bring some warmer temperatures, I hope, and not a repeat of the record snow we got last year. More importantly, I'm hopeful the fast-spreading Omicron variant will have burned itself out by the time we flip the calendar to the shortest month of the year. Each of you has been tasked with carrying a mighty load since the pandemic started. Municipal officials have risen to the challenge time and time again.

My final point (much cheering from the local controller): You will soon be getting educated, or already have been, about the "final rule" from the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Let's start with a very simple statement: The final rule is a victory for local government as it clarifies and gives great flexibility to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. While much of the final rule goes into effect April 1, some provisions are currently applicable. Keep an eye out for summaries and helpful tutorials on how your municipality should proceed. A lot of money is coming our way. The League will do all it can to assist in the proper expenditure of those monies and to ensure municipal services continue to be excellent in Arkansas. The League will also assist you to make certain that Great Cities Make a Great State! Remember, Be Local, Be Heard. We have been given a great monetary opportunity, so let's make the best of it!

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes  
Executive Director  
Arkansas Municipal League

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<sup>14</sup> This is a remake of the Charlton Heston classic, *The Omega Man* (1971). Will Smith's version is way better!



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**Danny Hernandez**  
Water/Wastewater Project Manager

## Who we are ...

"Water is a precious resource and my passion is informing others about the complexities of water and wastewater infrastructure. I educate my children on this as well and teach them that we have a duty to protect our rivers and streams because no one should have to drink polluted water."

Danny also enjoys making home-brewed beer in his spare time, and clean water makes good beer.

## Fayetteville's Paxton achieves Certified Municipal Clerk status

Fayetteville City Clerk/Treasurer Kara Paxton has earned the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the organization has announced. CMC is one of two professional designations granted by the IIMC. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs often totaling more than 120 educational hours. The CMC designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. Since 1970, the CMC program has prepared applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning as well as local and national associations. For more information on the IIMC, visit [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com).

## Sandwiching in History program enters 25th year

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has announced the 2022 Sandwiching in History Tour schedule. This is the 25th anniversary of the program, part of the education and outreach efforts of the AHPP. Tours will be virtual and run at noon, typically on the first Friday of each month, on the AHPP's social media channels. For a full list of where to watch visit [ArkansasPreservation.com](http://ArkansasPreservation.com).

The 2022 lineup includes:

**February 4**—Hinderliter House, Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock

**March 4**—Engelberger House, North Little Rock

**April 1**—La Petite Roche (The "Little Rock"), Little Rock

**May 6**—Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District at Lake Sylvia Recreation Area, Perryville

**June 3**—Huddleston Store and McKinzie Store (Lum and Abner Jot 'Em Down Store), Pine Ridge

**July 8**—Orval E. Faubus House, Huntsville

**August 5**—Fraternal Section, Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park, Little Rock

**September 9**—Historic Downtown Conway

**October 7**—Petit Jean State Park Civilian Conservation Corps Structures, Morrilton

**November 4**—Historic Climber Motor Car Factory, Unit A, Little Rock

**December 2**—Camp Robinson World War II German Prisoner of War Camp, North Little Rock

For more information about the Sandwiching in History Tour program, contact Ashley Sides, preservation outreach coordinator, at 501-324-9789 or [ashley.sides@arkansas.gov](mailto:ashley.sides@arkansas.gov).

## Grants available for local farmers markets

The application period is open for the Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Arkansas Farmers Market Bag Program, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture announced January 12. These programs, which are administered by the department and funded by the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas, help build awareness for farmers markets and their vendors.

The Farmers Market Promotion Program may fund the following promotional items to build community and regional awareness for a specific farmers market: signage listing names, seasons, times of operation and location details; local traditional advertising; and social media campaigns. In 2021, the department provided over \$9,000 in grants to 23 Arkansas farmers markets through the partnership with the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas. Applications are due April 29 or until funds are no longer available.

The Arkansas Farmers Market Bag Program gives farmers markets or vendors the opportunity to purchase reusable paper shopping bags at greatly reduced rates. This service assists farmers markets and vendors by providing convenient shopping bags for their customers. A total of 30,000 shopping bags were provided to Arkansas farmers markets in 2021. Additional information and applications for both programs are available at [www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farmers-market-programs/](http://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farmers-market-programs/).

## 2021 Act 833 deadline for Arkansas fire departments

The 2021 Act 833 application period will open January 1, 2022, and will close June 30, 2022. Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board and requires all Arkansas fire departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901-compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certified training and personal protective equipment for all active members. An online application is available on the Arkansas Fire Portal at [arfire.arkansas.gov](http://arfire.arkansas.gov). To request log-in credentials contact your county LEMC/Fire Coordinator or State Fire Coordinator Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or email [louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov).

## Turnback reporting requirement repealed

Act 517 of the 2021 regular session of the Arkansas legislature has repealed the requirement in A.C.A. § 27-70-207 that municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback must submit reporting for the previous year's projects to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs. The act went into effect on July 29.

Note: Reporting requirements related to the wholesale sales tax on motor fuel and distillate special fuel under Act 91 of 2020, which amended Arkansas Code § 26-64-104(a)(1), remain in effect. Under Section 13:

*(a)(1) Each city and county that expends revenues distributed under this chapter shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration no later than ~~June 30~~ March 15 of each year detailing the following for the previous calendar year:*

*(B) Expenditures made from the revenues received under this chapter; and*

*(C) Projects funded using revenues received under this chapter.*

## Annexation reports due March 1

A.C.A. § 14-40-2201 provides that on March 1 "the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight years." The written notice must include a "schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city" and "a statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city." If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three years after the date the annexation becomes final, "the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment." Finally: "A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three years as prescribed by law."


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

## Certain municipal officials may opt out of APERS

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

In order to make this election, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90 calendar days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system.

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

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

## Obituaries

**ELDON DALE LONG**, 67, who served as the mayor of Lowell from 2011-2019, died January 20, 2022.

**GINGER DIANNE TARNO**, 58, who served on the Ward City Council from 2001-2009, died December 30, 2021.

**CLIFFORD RAY "CLIFF" UNDERWOOD**, 88, who served six years on the Russellville City Council and served as chair of the city's planning commission, died December 17, 2021.

## Meeting Calendar

**March 14-16, 2022**, National League of Cities Congressional City Conference

**March 26-28, 2022**, Arkansas Municipal League Hybrid Winter Conference

# Annual Statements

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

<b>Form A</b>		
City or Town of _____		
(Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)		
Financial Statement January 1, 2021—Dec. 31, 2021		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance January 1, 2021	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
State Revenues	\$ _____	
Property Taxes	\$ _____	
Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs	\$ _____	
Franchise Fees	\$ _____	
Transfers In	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total General Fund Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
*Administrative Department:		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2021		\$ _____
<b>STREET FUND</b>		
Balance January 1, 2021	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
State Revenues	\$ _____	
Property Taxes	\$ _____	
Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
Franchise Fees	\$ _____	
Transfers In	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Street Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Street Fund Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt service	\$ _____	
Transfers out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2021		\$ _____
The classification of expenditures shall be by department, i.e., administrative, police department, fire department, parks department, etc.		
<b>INDEBTEDNESS</b>		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Property Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	
Sales & Use Tax Bonds	\$ _____	
Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
		_____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	
All financial records for the City of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ___ A.M. to ___ P.M., Monday through Friday, at City Hall in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

# Municipalities must publish annual financial statement

The time is approaching for the annual reporting of each city and town's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2021-2022 ed., sections 14-59-116 and 14-237-113.

A.C.A. § 14-59-116 provides that the governing body of each municipality shall publish annually in a newspaper published in the municipality a financial statement of the municipality by April 1 covering the previous calendar year (January through the end of December).

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

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

What if no newspaper is published in the city or town? In that case, the statements may be posted in two public places in the municipality.

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

<b>Form B</b>		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021		
<b>WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS</b>		
Balance January 1, 2021	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund		
Dec. 31, 2021	\$ _____	
<b>INDEBTEDNESS</b>		
<b>Type of Debt</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Last Payment Due</b>
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

The suggested **FORM B** is for use by water and sewer departments to comply with A.C.A. § 14-237-113.



# AMListServ is now AML Communities!

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GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

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Welcome to the Arkansas Municipal League Communities Platform

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

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

**Members - Login here**

Email

Password

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

Stay signed in

Login

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

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



# Summaries of Attorney General opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

## Water authority, utility different under Unclaimed Property Act

Opinion No. 2021-064

Requestor: Stu Smith, State Representative

Would the Arkansas Unclaimed Property Act apply to a “public water authority” as it would a “public utility”?

**RESPONSE:** I take it your question pertains to a water authority formed under the Water Authority Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 4-35-101 et seq.). With that understanding, the answer is “no” because a water authority is not a “utility” for purposes of the controlling definition of that term under the Arkansas Unclaimed Property Act.

## Litigation pending on gun questions

Opinion 2021-059

Requestor: Richard McGrew, State Representative

Representative McGrew asks a number of questions regarding the authority to carry a handgun in a courtroom, courthouse, county administrative office, and county-owned building, as well as a question regarding the proper interpretation of Act 1024 of 2021.

**RESPONSE:** I must respectfully decline to issue an opinion on these questions because of pending litigation, the outcome of which could directly affect the issues these questions raise. It is the long-standing policy of the Attorney General’s office, as a member of the executive branch, to decline to issue opinions on matters that are pending before the courts for resolution.

## Mayor may attend executive session at civil service commission’s invite

Opinion 2021-073

Requestor: Lance Eads, State Senator

In light of the City of Springdale’s determination that the mayor is the immediate supervisor of the fire chief, would the mayor be legally permitted to attend an executive session of the Springdale Civil Service

Commission if requested to do so by that Commission?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, as the immediate supervisor of the fire chief, the mayor may attend an executive session of the Springdale Civil Service Commission at the Commission’s request, provided that the session is held to discuss certain personnel matters regarding the fire chief.

## Payment records generally releasable under FOIA

Opinion 2021-100

Requestor: Russell Stokes, Mayor, Cherokee Village

Is the decision of the City of Cherokee Village to release records of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) payments to city employees in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request consistent with provisions of the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** My duty under subdivision 25-19-105(c)(3)(B) is to state whether the custodian’s decision as to the release of “personnel or evaluation records” is consistent with the FOIA. Because I have not seen any records that the City has determined to be responsive to the instant FOIA request, I cannot opine about the releasability of any specific document or the need to redact any specific piece of information from an otherwise releasable document. I can state generally, however, that the custodian’s apparent decision in this case that the payment records are personnel records that are subject to release appears consistent with the FOIA. A FOIA requester’s identity or motive for making the request is generally irrelevant to whether a record must be released. And I have no information that would support a reversal of the custodian’s decision to release the records. 🏠

*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).*

# ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2022. This scholarship covers the registration fee. Additional scholarships include: four \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the

International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 22-25, 2022, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

Completed scholarship application should be returned to the ACCRTA Scholarship Committee chair:

Complete the nomination below and send to:

**Andrea Williams, MMC, CMC, CAMC**  
**City Clerk, City of Paragould**  
**301 West Court Street**  
**P.O. Box 1175**  
**Paragould, AR 72450**

Andrea.Williams@Paragouldcity.org

## 2022 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

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

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

<input type="checkbox"/>	IIMC Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas	May 22-25, 2022	<b>Deadline: April 1, 2022</b>
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**Disclaimer:** ACCRTA will not be responsible for applications that do not reach the chairman by the deadline. Please feel free to call after a few days to be sure your application was received.

# ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2022. The finalist will be honored at the 87th Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League, June 15-17, in Little Rock.

**The deadline for nominations is April 30.**

## Requirements for nominees:

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

Complete the application below and send to:

**Andrea Williams, MMC, CMC, CAMC**  
**City Clerk, City of Paragould**  
**301 West Court Street**  
**P.O. Box 1175**  
**Paragould, AR 72450**

Andrea.Williams@Paragouldcity.org

## Municipal Clerk of the Year 2022

### Please Submit the Following Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2022 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# RACIAL HEALING

## Healing through transformation

The League joined the Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement and other community partners in January to observe the 2022 National Day of Racial Healing.

By Mel Jones, League staff

In observance of the 2022 National Day of Racial Healing in Arkansas, the Arkansas Municipal League hosted the Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement (APJMM) for a January 18 press conference kicking off the weeklong schedule of events. Due to the rise in Omicron cases, the event was broadcast via the League’s Facebook page.

League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes welcomed the small group of attendees before acknowledging several of the municipalities that had issued the 2022 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) proclamation. “It is a real privilege to stand here and embrace our differences and our cultures and engage in actual healing,” he said. “This is a really good opportunity for all of us to take a self-inventory and think about who and what we are and what we want to be.”

Chris Villines, executive director of the Association of Arkansas Counties, echoed those sentiments. “I am thrilled to see all three levels—state, city and county—working together on this important endeavor,” he said.

Clarice Abdul-Bey, co-convenor of the APJMM, praised the people and organizations that continue to work together to

achieve racial justice and healing in Arkansas. She shared a quote from the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu: “Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need for one another.”

Abdul-Bey noted that 2022 is the third consecutive year that a dozen or more organizations, groups and individuals throughout Arkansas have effortlessly—during a pandemic—joined to observe the NDORH in weeklong, social justice-driven, community-oriented events. “We stand together shoulder to shoulder in



Abdul-Bey

this move toward more truth, more racial justice, and certainly more transformation where we live, work and play,” she said. “We believe that authentic racial healing has a unifying quality that deserves and requires all of our attention as we observe the National Day of Racial Healing with the singular hope that our children and our children’s children will grow up in a world that reaps the benefits of the racial healing work that we accomplish today and throughout this week’s events.”

Preston Clegg, senior pastor at Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, told the biblical story of the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus encountered a man who had “laid in his sickness” for 38 years and asked the man if he wanted to be healed. Jesus’ question initially struck Clegg as insensitive and obtuse, he said. “Who among us would walk into a hospital room and ask the patient, ‘do you want to be healed?’” Upon further reflection, however, Clegg said that it starts to make sense because “sometimes we do resist the things that make for our healing.” To achieve racial healing, we must ask ourselves the same question, he said. “Do we want to be healed enough to tell the truth about racism, even if it makes us uncomfortable?” Clegg said there is a movement to avoid that truth today, in the name of comfort. “Are we willing to admit that because of racism we are all lying in sickness and have been for a long, long time?”



Clegg

Racism distorts everyone involved, Clegg said, the perpetrator and the victim alike. Many issues—from underfunded schools and inequitable access to health care to making it more difficult for some people to vote—affect everyone, not just the intended targets. “Are we willing to admit that when we believe we’re

something more than human, that distorts our identity as much as believing that some people are something less than human? We all need to be healed. So, do you want to be healed? Let us not answer that question quickly or lightly, because I'm pretty sure we will not answer that question with our words but with our lives."

Little Rock Central High School sophomore Khushi Patil shared why social justice issues are so important to her generation and those to come. "Educating the youth about racial equity is vital to their upbringing, especially with the recent impact of COVID-19 within minority groups, which has highlighted the disparities within the racial fabric of the United States," she said. "With this knowledge they will be able to conquer the toughest of battles, in addition to assisting others who have suffered from racial violence." Patil, an intern at Just Communities of Arkansas, said the future of this nation is bright, with young citizens having an increased awareness of social justice issues. "We are passionate and will always advocate for what's right. The National Day of Racial Healing enables the people of Arkansas to take small steps toward a greater change."

Action at the local level is essential to that change, and League 2021-2022 First Vice President and Sherwood Mayor Virginia Young offered her perspective on creating communities where all people feel welcome, safe, valued and understood. She believes such an outcome depends on one thing in particular: freedom. Many view freedom as the ability to live without constraints, she said. "Is this the real meaning of being free? How can we experience freedom while being constrained with negative behaviors?" she asked. Communities cannot experience freedom unless we cultivate love and respect for all individuals, she said. "Let's all work to be free. Let's be free from the belief of superiority. Let's be free from demoralizing others. Let's be free from greed. Let's be free from hate. Let's be free from bitterness."



Young

Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde discussed county-level efforts to address inequities through the development of programs and services geared toward improving every citizen's quality of life and expanding economic opportunities. "But to say we've reached that mountaintop would be naïve," he said. "We have to acknowledge that we still have much work to do and to not be deterred by those actively working to divide us. Ignoring or denying wounds in this country does not move us towards healing, it only widens the chasm."

Hilary Trudell, executive director of Just Communities of Arkansas, said that as she reflected on the importance of the NDORH, she was struck by the day's incredible power to "remind us all that this nation and its people are in desperate need of restoration." For that to happen, she said, the nation must come to terms with the fact that the wounds that have been inflicted and are still being inflicted are true and real. "We cannot in the same breath honor the day of racial healing and deny the history that has brought us here. There are people in this country who would have our teachers deliver a revisionist history of what bred the intolerance that still permeates our nation today," she said. "This history glosses over the sin of slavery, and all of the oppressive actions, blatant and subversive, that followed in the hopes that we might forget the source of the wounds that still need mending."



Trudell

Trudell recognized that honoring the NDORH would not be possible without the people who have fought before us. "These individuals gave their time, energy, talent and lives with no expectation of celebration. They fought because they believed. They fought because they had hope," she said. "Let us remember them, and let us remember their resilience, their courage and their hope for a brighter future. On this day of racial healing, I ask that we commit to ensuring that the truth of this country, its blemishes and its bravery, live on in the hearts and minds of all of our citizens. Especially our children."

Creating a better world for our children and our children's children is one of the primary messages of the NDORH. In her closing remarks, League Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell noted that when life gets a little off kilter, sitting and speaking with a child can offer a fresh perspective. She read from poet Amanda Gorman's children's book, *Change Sings*. The book, which she had gifted to her 9-year-old daughter for Christmas, includes the passage: "I can hear change humming in its loudest proudest song. I don't fear change coming, and so I sing along.... We're what the world is becoming and we know it won't be long, we all hear change strumming, won't you sing along?" "I encourage everyone to please sing along," Bullerwell said as she closed the event.

To learn more about the APJMM and NDORH in Arkansas, visit [apjmm.org](http://apjmm.org) and [healourcommunities.org](http://healourcommunities.org).

# COVID and the workplace: “Long COVID” and the ADA

So-called “long COVID” symptoms continue to affect the lives of many who have contracted the virus, and on December 14, 2021, the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission updated its COVID-19 technical assistance for employers, clarifying the circumstances under which COVID-19 may be considered a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

By Michelle Kaemmerling

**A**s we approach two full years of the pandemic, we are all too familiar with the devastating effects that many experience during the active period of infection.

But we also now know that many who contract the virus deal with long-term effects that last far beyond the initial infection—what the CDC refers to as “post-COVID conditions” and colloquially referred to as “long COVID.” Symptoms can include chronic fatigue, organ damage, autoimmune conditions, shortness of breath, and confusion and memory loss (otherwise known as brain fog).

Some long haulers had no symptoms or relatively mild symptoms when diagnosed with COVID-19. The *Washington Post* recently reported that medical specialists estimate 750,000 to 1.3 million patients are likely to experience extended symptoms that prevent them from returning to the workforce full time.

For covered employers, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to eligible employees who are unable to work because of a serious health condition, which long COVID can certainly be. But what happens when the 12 weeks of FMLA leave expires, or when an employee is not eligible for FMLA because the company is too small to be covered or because the employee has been employed less than a year? In those situations, employers must consider whether additional leave or other accommodation should be granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The ADA defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. In July 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice issued joint guidance confirming that long COVID can be a disability under the ADA.

In September, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the federal agency charged with enforcement of the ADA) issued a notice confirming its agreement with that guidance and on December 14 officially updated its technical guidance for employers at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).

The government’s position is that long COVID can be a disability. Not every case of long COVID will fall under the ADA, but disability is broadly defined under the statute. While short-term medical conditions like the common cold or flu generally do not meet the disability definition, the symptoms that many long haulers experience are precisely the sort of substantially limiting effects that do constitute a disability. For example, it has long been understood that conditions that substantially affect an individual’s ability to concentrate—such as ADHD—can be a disability under the ADA.

Accommodation essentially means some change to how the job is normally performed. So, while employers are generally supposed to treat similarly situated employees the same, the ADA requires employers to do more for certain employees. Naturally, this puts employers in a tough spot when other employees ask why someone is getting “special treatment,” because information about disability and accommodations must be kept confidential by law.

The law requires only “reasonable accommodation,” which is an accommodation that does not pose an undue hardship, meaning significant difficulty or expense. What constitutes undue hardship will vary from company to company and position to position.

If an employee experiencing long COVID has a disability that is interfering with their ability to do the job, then the company must conduct an assessment to determine whether a reasonable accommodation is available that would allow the employee to return to work, even if on a reduced schedule. Or, is a leave of absence the only

possible accommodation, and how much leave is reasonable? Again, these must be case-by-case assessments.

Not everyone with long COVID needs a leave of absence, as some who experience long-term, disabling effects of COVID-19 will be able to return to work with accommodation. Such accommodations can include schedule changes or changes to the physical workspace. For example, satisfying the duty to accommodate could be as simple as making an exception to a rule that cashiers cannot sit by providing a stool to a cashier who is experiencing fatigue and is unable to stand for her shift.

As with any accommodation question under the ADA, employers must take up each situation on an individualized basis and engage in what the EEOC

calls an “interactive process” to identify possible accommodations.

Questions about accommodations for employees with long COVID are starting to come in and we don’t see that changing any time soon. It’s just the latest development in the world of the ADA, which has always required employers to be creative and nimble to stay in compliance. 🙏



*Michelle Kaemmerling is a partner at Wright Lindsey Jennings in Little Rock and the leader of the firm’s labor and employment team. This article appeared originally in the December 27, 2021, issue of Arkansas Business and is reprinted with permission.*



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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## League reschedules 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

As we continue to adjust our personal and work lives to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arkansas Municipal League has made the decision to reschedule its 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference. Originally scheduled for January 19-21, this year's Winter Conference will now be held March 26-28 at the Little Rock Marriott and Statehouse Convention Center. The event will remain hybrid, with a virtual option available for those who wish to participate online rather than in person.

"Postponing the Winter Conference was the last thing I wanted to do," said League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes. "I'm ready to see the membership in person and have real, face-to-face interactions. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant has spread so quickly that I became concerned with gathering city officials and personnel from all over the state only to send them home sick or on the verge of being sick. I cannot imagine if several hundred municipal officials and employees became sick all at once. We would pay a dear price for that. The responsible and prudent thing to do was reschedule the conference for a safer and healthier meeting."

When the decision to reschedule was made in early January, the state was experiencing a record number of new COVID-19 cases. Currently, we are experiencing a 25.5 percent positivity rate, which is considered "uncontrolled spread" in the medical community. The League came to the decision after conferring with medical experts from UAMS and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

According to League Deputy Director Whitney V. Bullerwell, our goal is to keep the 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference essentially the same, including the agenda and the continuing education hours offered to participants in the voluntary certification program for municipal officials and personnel. One departure from the norm will be the days across which the conference

takes place—Saturday through Monday. "Instead of our usual Wednesday-through-Friday pattern, we have had to adjust," Bullerwell said. "We were very limited in the dates we could reschedule because everyone who had to cancel in 2020 and 2021 has already rescheduled in 2022. The Statehouse and Marriott are booked week over week over week. It was the only option we had."

She thanked League members for their continuing flexibility as we navigate the pandemic. "I am grateful for our members being so understanding. I'm thankful they are staying the course and we will see them March 26 through 28 for the first-ever Hybrid Winter Conference of the Arkansas Municipal League."

### Registrations and Reservations

If you are registered as a virtual attendee or an in-person attendee, your registration will remain in our system. There is no need for members to register twice for this event. Our host hotels have agreed to cancel all existing reservations, and in-person attendees must make new reservations with the participating hotels. Reservations can be made by calling the following numbers:

- Little Rock Marriott (Headquarters hotel): 877-759-6290 or 501-399-8042
- Capital Hotel: 501-374-7474 or 501-370-7062
- DoubleTree Hotel: 501-372-4371
- Courtyard Marriott: 501-975-9800

If you are not already registered for the 2022 Hybrid Winter Conference but wish to participate in March, the League is only accepting registrations for virtual attendance at this time. You may register online at [arml.org/reg](http://arml.org/reg). On-site registration will not be available. No refunds will be given for either attendee type after 5 p.m. Monday, March 1.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tricia Zello at [tzello@arml.org](mailto:tzello@arml.org).





## Voluntary Certification Program

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Continuing Education</b>	<b>Advanced Level 2</b>	<b>Advanced Level 3</b>
City Government 101 Municipal Finance 101 Human Resources	Various topics of interest to municipalities	Municipal Finance 201 Disaster Preparedness Leadership 101 at the Local Level	Personnel Management Technology/ Cybersecurity Conflict Management Leadership 201 at the Local Level
<b>15 hours</b>	<b>6 hours</b>	<b>15 hours</b>	<b>20 hours</b>

## Voluntary Certification Class Schedule

<b>Month</b>	<b>Even Year - Level 2</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Odd Year - Level 3</b>
<b>Jan.</b>	Winter Conference (3 Hours of Continuing Education)	<b>Jan.</b>	Winter Conference City Gov't 101 (5 hours of Level 1) plus (3 Hours of Continuing Education)
<b>Feb.</b>	Municipal Finance 201 (5 hours of Advanced Level 2)	<b>Feb.</b>	Personnel Management (5 hours of Advanced Level 3)
<b>Mar.</b>	Disaster Preparedness (5 hours of Advanced Level 2)	<b>Mar.</b>	Technology/Cybersecurity (5 hours of Advanced Level 3)
<b>April</b>	City Government 101 (5 hours of Level 1)	<b>April</b>	Planning & Zoning (5 hours of Continuing Education)
<b>May</b>	Leadership 101 (5 hours of Advanced Level 2)	<b>May</b>	Conflict Management (5 hours of Advanced Level 3)
<b>June</b>	June Convention (3 Hours of Continuing Education)	<b>June</b>	June Convention (3 Hours of Continuing Education)
<b>July</b>		<b>July</b>	
<b>Aug.</b>		<b>Aug.</b>	
<b>Sept.</b>	Municipal Finance 101 Workshop (5 hours of Level 1)	<b>Sept.</b>	Municipal Finance 101 Workshop (5 hours of Level 1)
<b>Oct.</b>	Human Resources (5 hours of Level 1)	<b>Oct.</b>	Human Resources (5 hours of Level 1)
<b>Nov.</b>	MHBP/MLWCP	<b>Nov.</b>	Leadership 201 (5 hours of Advanced Level 3)
<b>Dec.</b>		<b>Dec.</b>	



# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Saturday, March 26, 2022

12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.	<b>ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS AND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION (ACCRTA) TRAINING</b> <i>This session is an orientation for city clerks, recorders and treasurers. This training is especially helpful for individuals who are newly elected or new to their positions.</i>	ARKANSAS BALLROOM, MH
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	<b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b> <i>Stop by to receive your badge, tote bag, thumb drive containing updated publications and Handbook coupon to redeem at League Services.</i>	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	<b>VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND SPONSORS</b> <i>Governmental agencies have been invited to exhibit in Governor's Halls I and II. Drop by during the breaks and exhibit hall hours to visit with the agencies and sponsors about services they provide to municipalities. Sponsors of the 2022 Arkansas Municipal League Hybrid Winter Conference will also be set up in the exhibit hall. Virtual attendees, be sure to head to the virtual booths in the Attendee Hub!</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I & II, SCC
3:00 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: LEVELS 1-3</b> <i>This session will address the various levels of certification newly offered through our League Voluntary Certification Program. Discussion on how municipal officials and personnel can obtain Level 2 and Level 3 Certified Municipal Official and Certified Municipal Personnel designations will take place.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Whitnee V. Bullerwell, Deputy Director, Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
3:15 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.	<b>*STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE: THE IMPORTANCE OF MINDFULNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH</b> <i>This continuing certification workshop discusses how stress in the workplace can keep us from being fully engaged and doing our best work. Stress in city hall and city departments, if not addressed and handled properly, will lead municipal officials and personnel to burnout, disengagement, increased sick days and strained relationships in the workplace. This workshop, now more than ever, is beneficial to everyone in attendance. A few updates regarding the Municipal Health Benefit Program will also be announced, including changes related to this topic. A Q&amp;A period will follow if time permits.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Allison Atkinson, Director of Training and Organizational Development, SWEAP Connection Katie Bodenhamer, MHBP General Manager & Benefits Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League <i>*Saturday's and Sunday's continuing certification workshops offer two hours of continuing certification credit. Participants will be scanned at the conclusion of the Sunday workshop at 6:30 p.m.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
4:15 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	<b>PREPARING FOR THE 2024 GREAT NORTH AMERICAN ECLIPSE: WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE NATURAL STATE</b> <i>The 2017 Great American Eclipse proved that an astronomical experience could be a major tourism event. States within the path of the solar eclipse recorded historic economic impact. Nearly two-thirds of Arkansas will be within the path of totality for the Great North American Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Now is the time for cities, towns and communities to begin planning for this massive opportunity.</i> Presiding: Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood, First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League Kimberly J. Williams, Special Projects Manager, Division of Arkansas Tourism; Director, Arkansas' Great River Road; Travel Writer for the Arkansas Delta	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
	<b>DINNER ON YOUR OWN</b>	

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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Sunday, March 27, 2022

7:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION</b></p> <p><i>This session is devoted to gather and pray for those who lead our nation, state and municipalities.</i></p>	FULTON ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOST CITY BREAKFAST</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sponsored by the City of Little Rock and The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau</i></p> <p><i>Enjoy a delicious breakfast to get your day started off right. Thank you to the host city, Little Rock, and to the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau for hosting this delicious and fortifying breakfast.</i></p>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I & II, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b></p> <p><i>Stop by registration to receive your badge, tote bag, thumb drive containing updated publications and Handbook coupon to redeem at League Services.</i></p>	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND SPONSORS</b></p> <p><i>Governmental agencies have been invited to exhibit in Governor's Halls I and II. Drop by during the breaks and exhibit hall hours to visit with the agencies and sponsors about services they provide to municipalities. Sponsors of the 2022 Arkansas Municipal League Hybrid Winter Conference will also be set up in the exhibit hall. Virtual attendees, be sure to head to the virtual booths in the Attendee Hub!</i></p>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I & II, SCC
8:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING GENERAL SESSION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sponsored by Olympus Construction, Inc.</i></p> <p><i>Winter Conference officially begins with the Presentation of Colors and the singing of the National Anthem. Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. will welcome attendees, and humorous motivational speaker Charles Marshall will deliver the keynote address, "Real Heroes Don't Wear Spandex." Thank you to Olympus Construction for sponsoring our keynote speaker!</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Color Guard: Little Rock Fire Department          National Anthem: Sergeant Allison Walton, Little Rock Police Department          Host City Welcome: Mayor Frank D. Scott Jr., City of Little Rock          Speaking: Charles Marshall, Founder and President, M Power Resources</p>	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
10:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRENDSETTER CITY AWARDS</b></p> <p><i>Arkansas Business will present the 2021 Trendsetter City Awards to cities and towns with a vision for growth and improvement in areas such as education/workforce, tourism, infrastructure and public safety. These awards are presented in partnership with Arkansas Business Publishing Group, Crews &amp; Associates, Crafton Tull, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Industries of Arkansas and the Arkansas Municipal League.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood, First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League          Presenting: Mitch Bettis, President/Publisher, Arkansas Business Publishing Group          Paul Phillips, Senior Managing Director, Crews and Associates          Bonnie Jacoby, Vice President Business Sales &amp; Training, Arkansas Business Publishing Group</p>	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
10:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>	

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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Sunday, March 27, 2022, continued

<p><b>10:45 A.M.</b> to <b>11:45 A.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>GENERAL SESSION II: OPIOID LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENT UPDATE</b></p> <p><i>The monumental process to fight for and receive opioid settlement dollars and to further litigate with other drug companies has taken a few years of hard work and “out of the box” thinking. Arkansas’ unique approach to this epidemic—joining together all cities, towns, counties and the state of Arkansas—has been very advantageous. Our combined levels of government, resulting in a strongly unified force, have caught the attention of other governmental entities, attorneys and drug companies across the nation.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: F. Jerome Tapley, Principal Co-Chair, Cory Watson Attorneys          Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League          Chris Villines, Executive Director, Association of Arkansas Counties          John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League          Colin Jorgensen, Litigation Counsel, Association of Arkansas Counties</p>	<p>GOVERNOR’S HALL IV, SCC</p>
<p><b>12:00 P.M.</b> to <b>1:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON</b>  <i>Sponsored by American Fidelity Assurance</i></p> <p><i>Arkansans are known for giving back and the 2021 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards will be given to deserving cities and towns in Arkansas. Volunteerism in our state is strong and the cities and towns receiving recognition today have citizens who are going above the typical call of volunteerism. Thank you to American Fidelity Assurance for sponsoring this wonderful event!</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Invocation: Mayor Harry Brown, Stephens, Past Presidents Advisory Council, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: TBA          Emceeding: Rolly Hoyt, News Anchor, KTHV          Presenting: Amanda Richardson Nipper, Commission Chair, Governor’s Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism</p>	<p>WALLY ALLEN BALLROOM, SCC</p>
<p><b>1:45 P.M.</b> to <b>2:45 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>LEGISLATIVE ISSUE: HOW ONE CITY’S ISSUE CAN AFFECT ALL CITIES AND TOWNS AT THE LEGISLATURE</b></p> <p><i>Be sure to join this important session regarding legislative updates that have taken place since the conclusion of the 93rd General Assembly and hear how comments made during meetings can affect all cities and towns in Arkansas.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood, First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League          John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League          James Walden, Planning Director, City of Conway          Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale, Past President, Arkansas Municipal League          Colby Fulfer, Chief of Staff, City of Springdale</p>	<p>GOVERNOR’S HALL IV, SCC</p>
<p><b>2:45 P.M.</b> to <b>3:00 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>BREAK</b></p>	

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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Sunday, March 27, 2022, continued

<p><b>3:00 P.M.</b> to <b>4:00 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>**HOW TO ENSURE YOUR CITY'S OR TOWN'S LAND USE IS ARRANGED TO YOUR ADVANTAGE</b></p> <p><i>This session is devoted to discussion on comprehensive land use plans, zoning regulations and compliance with zoning regulations. Attention to plans, zoning regulations and compliance will allow your city or town the ability to regulate land use to a municipality's advantage.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Moderating: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: Jim von Tungeln, Planning Consultant, Arkansas Municipal League          Lanny Richmond, Senior Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League          Lance Spicer, Deputy City Manager, Hot Springs</p>	<p>GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC</p>
<p><b>4:00 P.M.</b> to <b>4:15 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>BREAK</b></p>	
<p><b>4:15 P.M.</b> to <b>5:15 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>**MUNICIPAL PROJECTS AND HOW ACT 9 BONDS CAN FUND THEM</b></p> <p><i>The cities and towns of Arkansas have a plethora of needs. Therefore, projects must be of priority, fully vetted and properly scaled. There is a good amount of chatter centered around solar projects, such as municipal net metering. Learn from the League's expert on municipal power and one of Mitchell Williams' expert attorneys on the usage of Act 9 Bonds for funding projects. A Q&amp;A period will follow if time permits.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood, First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League          Moderating: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: Jason Carter, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal Power Association          Michele Simmons Allgood, Member, Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates, &amp; Woodyard P.L.L.C.          Susan Norton, Chief of Staff, City of Fayetteville</p> <p><i>**The 3:00 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions will also serve as two hours of CLE for city attorneys.</i></p>	<p>GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC</p>
<p><b>5:15 P.M.</b> to <b>5:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>BREAK</b></p>	
<p><b>5:30 P.M.</b> to <b>6:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>*U.S. CENSUS BUREAU: COUNT QUESTION RESOLUTION (CQR)</b></p> <p><i>This continuing certification workshop focuses on the 2020 Census Count Question Resolution program. The CQR program provides a mechanism for governmental units to request a review of their official 2020 census results. Additionally, the CQR program helps ensure that housing and population counts are correctly allocated to the 2020 census tabulation blocks in all 50 states. A Q&amp;A period will follow if time permits.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Speaking: Craig Best, CQR Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau</p> <p><i>*Saturday's and Sunday's continuing certification workshops offer two hours of continuing certification credit. Participants will be scanned at the conclusion of this workshop.</i></p>	<p>GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC</p>

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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Sunday, March 27, 2022, continued

<p><b>7:00 P.M.</b> to <b>8:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>2022 LEAGUE HYBRID WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET</b> <i>Sponsored by JTS Financial</i></p> <p><i>Clarence Anthony, Executive Director and CEO of the National League of Cities, will kick off the evening with a special address to attendees. Main Street Arkansas—now entering its 38th year—will present their Excellence in Downtown Revitalization Awards. Municipal officials who have newly obtained their “Certified Municipal Official” or “Certified Municipal Personnel” status, and those who have maintained their status with continuing education will be recognized. Additionally, the League will recognize the inaugural certification class on “Basic Grant Writing and Management.” Thank you to JTS Financial for sponsoring this wonderful event!</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League          Invocation: Rev. Gary Perry, Council Member, Alma          Speaking: Clarence Anthony, Executive Director &amp; CEO, National League of Cities          Emceeing: Secretary Stacy Hurst, Arkansas Division of Parks, Heritage and Tourism          Presenting: Greg Phillips, Director of Main Street Arkansas, Arkansas Division of Parks, Heritage and Tourism</p>	<p>WALLY ALLEN BALLROOM, SCC</p>
<p><b>8:30 P.M.</b> to <b>10:00 P.M.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>2022 LEAGUE HYBRID WINTER CONFERENCE DESSERT RECEPTION</b> <i>Sponsored by Stephens</i></p> <p><i>Sunday night isn't over yet! After the banquet, join League President Tim McKinney, First Vice President Virginia Young and our incredible hosts from Stephens for delightful desserts and drinks at the beautiful Capital Hotel. There will be an opportunity to tour this amazing historic property.</i></p>	<p>CAPITAL HOTEL MEZZANINE</p>

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# 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | March 26-28, 2022

## #2022AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Monday, March 28, 2022

7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I & II, SCC
7:00 A.M. to NOON	<b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b> <i>Stop by registration to receive your badge, tote bag, thumb drive containing updated publications and Handbook coupon to redeem at League Services.</i>	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.	<b>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION</b> <i>City attorneys will meet for a total of six hours of CLE over Thursday and Friday.</i>	RIVERVIEW ROOM, MH
9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	<b>GENERAL SESSION I: AN OVERVIEW OF REDISTRICTING IN ARKANSAS</b> <i>Redistricting in Arkansas has often been a point of contention. Listen to the experts discuss the Congressional Districts map, the State Senate and House District maps, and the redrawing of city wards.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Shelby Johnson, State GIS Officer, AR Geographic Information Systems Office Doug House, Deputy Director for Redistricting, Office of the Attorney General Linda Burgess, Code and Opinions Attorney, Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
10:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.	<b>GENERAL SESSION II: AEDI SALES TAX TOOL AND APPLICATIONS OF SALES TAX DATA</b> <i>Experts with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute, affiliated with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and in collaboration with the Arkansas Municipal League, will share interesting data and reports regarding sales tax collections in Arkansas. This session also includes applications of sales tax data on specific purchases that cities and towns may find of interest. A Q&amp;A period will follow if time permits.</i> Presiding: Mayor Virginia Young, Sherwood, First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League Dr. Michael Pakko, Chief Economist, Arkansas Economic Development Institute, State of Arkansas Dr. Carlos Silva, Regional Economist, Arkansas Economic Development Institute, State of Arkansas	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
11:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.	<b>*UPDATE ON THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)</b> <i>The League's outreach to our members regarding federal relief funds has been strong and consistent since the CARES Act, and now we've turned our attention to ARPA. In this session, League staff will review some of the high points of ARPA and update attendees on the most recent rule changes. A Q&amp;A period will follow if time permits.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Cindy Frizzell, Director of Finance, Arkansas Municipal League Caran Curry, Grants Attorney, Arkansas Municipal League Blake Gary, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Concluding Remarks: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville, President, Arkansas Municipal League <i>*Scanning for the final one hour of continuing education certification credit will take place at the conclusion of the ARPA session.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
12:15 P.M.	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Before you head home, join us for a buffet in the Marriott Grand Ballrooms.</i>	MARRIOTT GRAND BALLROOMS B & C, MH

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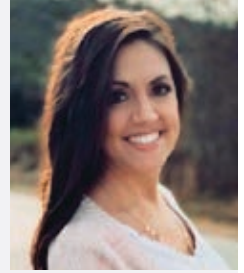
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## Meet Andrea Sayre, a claims examiner with the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program.

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



**Andrea:** I am a lost time claims adjuster in the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program, handling mostly the west side of the state.

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

I started working here as a temp in August 2002 and was then hired on permanently when my temp time was up.

### How has the League changed since you started? What has stayed the same?

I have worked here 19 years, so pretty much everything has changed. The one thing that has stayed the same is the level of commitment we all have to the cities and towns of Arkansas.

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

Be mindful that people have lives, and you don't know what is going on in their life that may make them lash out. You can't take it personally; just be kind.

### Where did you grow up?

I was born in El Dorado and I grew up in Sherwood.

### What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why?

I'm going to go with El Dorado even though I didn't "grow up" there. My grandparents lived there their whole lives, so I was there a lot, and it is most definitely the Spudnut Shoppe.

### What is your favorite part about working for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas?

The friendships I've developed with my co-workers and helping people navigate their workers' compensation claims, as I know it can be overwhelming. ☺

Does your city or town have an employee of the month we should feature? Let us know at [citytown@arml.org](mailto:citytown@arml.org)!



## Meet Shawanna Rodgers, diversity and economic development coordinator for the city of Conway.

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

**Shawanna:** My duties include supporting the office of the mayor by increasing community connections while serving as a representative of the office to various external organizations. I create and disseminate materials to educate the community regarding city government. I also participate in community functions designed to enhance economic growth and diversity in Conway.



**Why did you choose your profession?** It was a step out of my comfort zone, but I knew it was an opportunity I could not pass up. Having lived in Conway for over 20 years and having a passion for the community and the desire to see Conway continue to evolve and grow, I thought to myself, I can definitely do this!

**What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge?** The team I work with is the best! I'd have to say they're my favorite part of my job. My biggest challenge is operating at a slower pace, however this is becoming a strength as I continue to grow in my role.

**What's your favorite spot in Conway?** My favorite spots include the variety of restaurants, new food trucks and places to shop—it is hard to narrow it down to just one! Anyone who knows me knows I'm a foodie at heart and I love to shop! As an alum of the University of Central Arkansas, one of the things I love about Conway is the continued aspiration to grow and keep Conway one of the best places to live, attend college and grow.

**What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job?** The public perception is that I am responsible for diversity in other organizations within the city. The reality is I am only responsible for diversity internally within city offices and networking with other organizations when afforded the opportunity. I do believe it is imperative for the city to lead by example. In an effort to do so, we have a newly created Diversity Advisory Council and we have some great educational and community opportunities and activities coming in 2022 and 2023.

**What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job?** Be creative, be willing to adjust, and stay true to yourself. Always complete whatever assignment you encounter with a spirit of excellence.

**What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Conway?** You can't miss visiting downtown, thriving with unique boutiques and places to dine. If you're in town with family during the late spring and summer months you can visit our two splash pads at 5th Avenue Park and Laurel Park. Finally, my faith is a big part of my life and Conway has a great community of local churches. I attend True Holiness. You can always join me, or we have a huge list of places to choose from. 🏛️

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# Take safety from paper to practice

By Allen Green, League staff

**T**his month, I'd like to pass along a few tips to help you move your safety program from paper to practice and integrate safety activities into your daily operations. While it's important to have written programs and policies in place, implementation is where the rubber meets the road. Here we go!

First, be proactive. Don't wait for an accident to occur before you start talking about safety. Preach and practice safety and lead by example every day. Remember: What is important to leaders will become important to others.

Get employees involved in safety. Put safety activities and responsibilities in the hands of employees. Safety inspections, peer-to-peer observations, hazard reporting and job safety analysis are examples of routine safety activities that employees can and should own. Teach, train, then turn them loose! Leaders must provide feedback and respond to employee concerns for this to take hold.

Stress the importance of reporting and reviewing all safety incidents, including injuries, near misses and close calls, and vehicle and equipment damage. Reporting incidents and injuries should be encouraged and framed as an opportunity for everyone involved to learn and improve the work environment. Don't use investigations as a fault-finding mission but rather as a means to repair a process error in your management system. Make sure corrective actions address the root cause of the problem and are not just Band-Aids for the symptoms. Time spent reviewing minor injuries, near misses and safety concerns will reduce the number of severe incidents.

Instill a questioning attitude in your employees. Train them to use the "what if" method to question potential hazards, determine what might go wrong and plan accordingly. Encourage questions and reports concerning real or potential hazards and get employee buy-in on possible solutions. If employees are ignored or chastised for bringing these items forward, the program will wither on the vine.

Plan your work and work your plan. Have employees take ownership in utilizing job safety analysis or job hazard analysis tools to assess non-routine jobs and identify potential hazards. Never allow employees to start a task that has not been properly planned or if there is any uncertainty among the group on how to proceed, proper tools to use or other concerns. Require pre-job

safety briefs and planning. Implement these safety tools as standard practice. The time invested will pay big dividends in efficiency and incident reduction.

Give employees stop-work authority and mean it! Encourage employees to speak up when potential hazards arise. Employees should understand that stopping a job to discuss a deviation from the plan or to address a new hazard is a good thing and should become common practice. No job or task is worth risking an injury or fatality.

Develop employee safety teams or committees to participate in hazard identification, safety audits, incident investigations and ideas for corrective actions. Be sure to share findings across the organization so that corrective actions are implemented in similar situations in other departments.

Conduct safety audits and inspections utilizing individual employees or teams. Be sure to include vehicles and equipment. Conduct pre-start-up inspections for new, modified or rebuilt equipment before approving them for general use. Allow employees to cross-audit with other departments. This is a great way for them to see and learn how other departments may be addressing similar safety issues they encounter in their own work area.

Emphasize preventive maintenance to minimize equipment-related issues. Implement daily, weekly and/or monthly equipment inspections, and don't forget to include company-owned or leased vehicles and powered equipment such as forklifts. Make this task easier by having inspection pads or booklets in each vehicle or on each piece of equipment.

Make safety work for you this year by training employees and giving them shared responsibility for their safety and the safety of co-workers, then hold them accountable. Lead by example and provide positive feedback at every opportunity. Implementing these tried-and-true safety tools will lead to a safer 2022 for everyone in your organization. 🍷



*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).*

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PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Modular housing? Phil Watkins, Searcy plan/review inspector, remembers this building as delivered in sections that were assembled on-site.

## Facts and phrases: Friends or enemies?

By Jim von Tungeln

John Adams, the second president of the United States, once observed, “Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

Heading into a new year, we pause to think of this statement in terms of the planning functions of our communities. Are there terms and concepts that we may bid farewell to forever? On the other hand, are there some that we once considered out of style but are waiting to return? Are there some that hang around although we don’t know exactly what they mean? Let’s examine a few.

One term that generates a lot of questions is “modular housing.” What does it mean? It generally refers to a structure built partially or entirely off-site and transported to the property via a flat-bed truck. From a planning standpoint, it does not mean much of anything these days.

In the old days, planners often used the term as a stand in for certain manufactured homes. The planning profession supported manufactured homes as a source of affordable housing that was decent, safe and sanitary. Cities and towns preferred, however, to limit its use to “double-wides,” hence the term “modular home” was used, in error, as referring to multi-sectioned manufactured homes. It sounded better to the public. Some old zoning ordinances still prohibit what we then called “mobile homes” but allow “modular homes.” There were differences, although both referred to units manufactured off-site. Instead of using truck transportation, manufactured homes moved on their own axles and wheels that were often, but not always, concealed after setup.

Today the difference resides in the building codes. Manufactured housing meets a code established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, commonly referred to as the “HUD Code.” The feds

preempt the city's use of any other building code for its enforcement processing.

As for modular housing, no matter where the parts originate, they become all or part of a structure that meets a city's building code. Thereupon, its processing rests on a matter of facts. It either meets the city's code and rates a permit, or it doesn't. There is no need to separate it from so-called "stick-built" housing. As a consequence, the term "modular home" has largely disappeared from the planning vocabulary.

We have abandoned one term, probably forever. In present usage, "mobile home" refers to those units constructed prior to the implementation of the HUD Code, or pre-1976. These are units with undersized framing, aluminum wiring and other dangerous features. There aren't many still around, and most can't be moved. They are banned from most municipalities and the term is falling into disuse. The sooner we remove it from our vocabulary, the better.

Another term that persists but has little meaning for planning within cities and towns is "tiny home." Since recent legislation prohibits our municipalities from regulating the minimum size of single-unit dwellings, the term tiny home has lost its usefulness in planning. We now rely on the building code to mandate the minimum square footage per person and leave other questions about minimum size to private covenants.

Speaking of housing, some terms refuse to depart. Older readers can remember boarding houses. These were multiple-unit dwelling facilities that offered rooms and meals for (usually) single adults. They often provided a safe and inexpensive domicile for young workers coming to the city for their first job. They also accommodated travelers seeking inexpensive lodging. One of our state's most beloved fictional characters, Mattie Ross from the novel *True Grit* by Arkansan Charles Portis, graced a boarding house in Fort Smith on the way to her adventures in Oklahoma.

Cities and towns have about written off boarding house, along with "filling station," as a planning term. But wait. The current crisis in affordable housing may generate a new interest in such accommodations. Who knows? And speaking of the term "affordable housing," it now risks replacement by "workforce housing" as a term more acceptable to modern sensibilities.

Another term altered by changing social review is "family." The issues loom far too complex for treatment here. Let us just say that prudent administrators simply refer to "groups of people" and leave the specifics to our attorney friends.

In a more technical sense, we recall the term "pyramid zoning." This refers to a type of zoning wherein all the uses permitted in more restrictive zoning districts also apply to less restrictive ones. In other words, if the

code allows single-unit dwellings in the most restrictive residential district, they can also exist in less restrictive residential districts. Also, if a neighborhood commercial district allows a flower shop, a highway commercial district does likewise.

For years, planners preached that the concept was undesirable for some reason or other. Some municipalities now find that it reduces the number of rezoning requests and may, in fact, fit with modern ideas concerning the desirability of mixed-use developments.

The stubbornness of facts can conflict with the stubbornness of terms. That itself can complicate matters. Following are examples that are a bit on the lighter side of the planning process.

Stubborn terms that planners use may seem contradictory to the layperson's ear. Consider, for example, two terms that are quite familiar to the average citizen. The first is the prefix "neo," which means new or different. The second is the adjective "traditional," which indicates something handed down from age to age, or "old."

Planners love to flood documents with the phrase "neo-traditional," which literally means "the new old." It refers to the use of valid development patterns of the past used in modern ways. It is another planning term that sheds more heat than light upon the development of strong communities. It is a very stubborn one, though, and cities are stuck with it.

Finally, there are planning phrases that stubbornly remain in use for the simple fact that nobody knows exactly what they mean. Consider the Vietnamese phrase "*trời ơi*," anglicized as "choi oi." It sorta means "oh my gosh," but actually means whatever the speaker wishes it to, from "oh, no," to "far out, man," to "ain't that something?"

In "*plannerese*," we have the term "sense of place." It, within specific contexts, can refer to wherever one is standing at the moment or to where one intends to stand later or to wherever one wishes to be standing or to whatever pleasant place one is planning. Its stubbornness resides within its impreciseness.

Time restrictions prohibit further examinations, such as why signs now stubbornly demand to be called "wayfinding devices." Let us just say that we calmly await the introduction of an urban plan that begins, "Choi oi," does this plan, like, offer clear wayfinding devices to an awesome sense of place within our community, or what? 🍷



*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).*



PHOTO COURTESY ARVRLS

From strengthening Wi-Fi signals to reach public spaces beyond the library building to offering checkout programs for portable hotspot devices, Arkansas' libraries are helping expand internet access.

## The Dewey Decimal connection

How local libraries are bridging the digital divide

By Emily Cooper Yates

In November 2021, the federal government passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Arkansas was awarded \$100 million to improve broadband internet coverage in the state. A large percentage of our state's population lacks access to critical resources provided by broadband internet, including healthcare services and educational and employment opportunities.

The Federal Communications Commission reports that 15 percent of Arkansans live in an area with no broadband infrastructure. Additionally, according to data from Microsoft, only 38.8 percent of Arkansans use the internet at broadband speeds. While citizens await planning on how this federal funding will be used, local libraries are taking charge in providing internet access immediately.

Historically, the local library served as a major hub for communities, filling gaps in accessibility to information, technology and education. This role is no different when it comes to broadband internet access. Libraries across Arkansas are taking it upon themselves to get citizens online.

The Malvern-Hot Spring County Library instituted a wildly popular hotspot checkout program. This program

was established well before the COVID-19 pandemic and allows patrons to check out Wi-Fi hotspots to take home and use. The library also established Wi-Fi hotspots in or near local businesses for easy public access and strategically placed Wi-Fi hotspots in "dead zones," where wireless connectivity is poor or nonexistent.

The Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System (ARVRLS) updated cabling at libraries throughout their service area. This was necessary to ensure they provided patrons with adequate broadband speeds and allowed the libraries to extend their Wi-Fi reach outside of the library itself and up to the property line. Now, citizens have 24/7 access to Wi-Fi, no password necessary. Like Malvern-Hot Spring County Library, ARVRLS libraries also implemented a Wi-Fi hotspot checkout program.

According to census data, 42 percent of households in Forrest City do not have internet. To address this need, the Forrest City Public Library also updated their network equipment, improved their internet speed and implemented a hotspot checkout program. The library took an extra step in bridging the digital divide by providing classes on digital navigation that allow citizens to learn about the internet and how to use it.

Planning is underway to determine how to utilize the funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Lou McAlister, CEO of Broadband Development Group, is developing a master plan to expand broadband access in Arkansas. According to *Talk Business and Politics*, McAlister's report is to be completed and presented to the Arkansas legislature by April. Additionally, the FCC is updating its broadband access map, which shows the areas in the state most lacking in connectivity. All of this information will guide decision-making around spending on broadband projects.

Amber Gregory, manager of E-Rate Services of the Arkansas State Library, and Misty Hawkins, director of ARVRLS, both explained that libraries need to be included in these planning initiatives. "Libraries know their communities, inside and out," Gregory said. "We have boots-on-the-ground knowledge. We are very connected to our communities; we know who doesn't get service and where."

Hawkins added, "Libraries have the service, reach, insight and knowledge. Many of us have already updated our equipment and services so we know what it takes."

The best thing individuals can do to support their local library's effort to expand broadband access is to spread the word of services and raise awareness. "We have to do a better job to spread awareness. There are people in our

communities who have no clue what we've been doing," Hawkins said.

The internet is vital to everyday life. It is used to search and apply for jobs, for online course work, for paying bills and beyond. The COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the necessity of access to broadband internet. Suddenly, our homes became offices and schools, with meetings and coursework taking place online. While our state awaits rollout of broadband expansion projects, libraries are meeting an immediate need by offering programming and equipment.

Arkansas is working on a statewide broadband plan and you can be a part of it. To determine the true broadband coverage in your area, fill out this survey and encourage your community to as well: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFSRYZH](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFSRYZH).

Don't forget to support your local library! Contact your local branch to see how you can help. 📞



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



# Understanding cholesterol

By J. Paul Mounsey, M.D., Ph.D., FACC

**C**holesterol is something people often associate with their diet. Many ads on television will promote foods as cholesterol-lowering options and correlate lower cholesterol levels with heart health. But what many people don't know is that food is only one factor in maintaining a healthy cholesterol level.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and Arkansas is one of the worst states for heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. February is American Heart Month, and knowing what cholesterol is and how to manage it can make all the difference in keeping your heart healthy.

## What is cholesterol?

Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance that is produced naturally by the liver and is found in the blood. It is made up of low-density lipoproteins (LDL) and high-density lipoproteins (HDL).

Cholesterol has many important functions, including making cell membranes and hormones such as estrogen, testosterone and cortisol. We can't live without it, but too much of it can be a bad thing.

Generally, it is split up into two parts: "good" cholesterol (HDL) and "bad" cholesterol (LDL). LDL get its bad reputation from its ability to build up in artery walls, restricting blood flow. HDL, however, goes through arteries scavenging LDL so that it doesn't build up too much.

## What are the risks of having high "bad" cholesterol?

If LDL builds up in an artery, it creates a layer of plaque inside the wall, narrowing arteries over time. This can cause high blood pressure as the heart and arteries work harder to get blood where it needs to go. Over time, artery walls can thicken and harden, a condition called atherosclerosis. The thickened walls make it harder to get blood through.

If the plaque continues to build up, it can rupture. When this happens, blood will start to clot in the artery, blocking even more blood flow, which is called thrombosis. If thrombosis happens in the heart, part of the muscle can die. This is what is commonly known as a heart attack.

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is caused by plaque buildup in the walls of the coronary arteries. It is the most common type of heart disease in the United States. The most common symptom of CAD is angina, which is chest pain or discomfort. However, for many people, the first sign that they have CAD is a heart attack.

## What can I do to maintain healthy levels?

Many people may know their total cholesterol levels without necessarily knowing what the numbers mean. Generally, the recommended level is less than 200 mg/dL (milligrams per deciliter). However, a number higher than that may not be a bad thing depending on the amount of HDL in the blood. A good rule of thumb is to keep LDL at or below 100 mg/dL and HDL at 60 mg/dL or above.

Although lipoproteins are naturally produced by your liver, cholesterol levels are affected by many factors. Diet can contribute to higher levels of LDL, so doctors usually advise patients to limit their intake of saturated fats, which are fats that are solid at room temperature. Some examples include butter, cream cheese and red meat. Meanwhile, a diet rich in oily fats, such as the kind found in lean protein, tuna, salmon and nuts, can decrease LDL levels, thereby increasing the percentage of HDL in the blood.

Beyond diet, cholesterol levels are affected by several medical and environmental factors. People with obesity and type 2 diabetes are at more risk of developing high levels of LDL in their blood. Smoking and having a sedentary lifestyle also affect cholesterol levels.

Knowing how cholesterol works and how to maintain healthy levels in your blood can keep your heart healthy, reducing your risk of developing life-threatening conditions. 🏠



*J. Paul Mounsey, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, a nationally recognized leader in cardiology and heart rhythm disturbances, joined UAMS in 2019 as director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine and director of the cardiovascular program at UAMS.*



Monday 8:34 am



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FILE PHOTO

“Our trees” are public trees located on property owned by the municipality, such as the cherry trees in downtown Fayetteville.

## Tree care ordinances 101

Part 1: Defining community trees and the ordinances affecting their planting, maintenance and removal.

By Krissy Kimbro

**U**nder the state constitution, Arkansas cities and towns have the power to regulate matters not already covered by federal or state laws. Local ordinances typically address public health and safety, zoning and the general welfare of residents. All trees within a community, both those growing on municipally owned property or rights of way and in private yards, affect the overall well-being of the community. Therefore, all Arkansas cities and towns should maintain an ordinance addressing the planting, maintenance, protection and removal of trees located within their jurisdictions.

### My trees, your trees, our trees, street trees

Tree ordinances should begin by defining the ownership categories of community trees. Privately owned trees (“my trees”) are trees located on private property, such as those growing in a residential backyard or in the parking lot of a local business. The term “your trees” addresses conflicts that can arise between homeowners, between businesses, or between businesses and homeowners when a tree owned by one person or business affects the safety or view of another person or business.

“Our trees” are public trees located on property owned by the municipality, such as those growing within city parks or on the grounds of the courthouse. Trees growing

in the right of way adjacent to roadways are called “street trees.” The rights and responsibilities for street trees vary across municipalities, which is why it is imperative to address them in local ordinances. Unless an ordinance is in place and clearly communicated to residents, a homeowner who plants a tree in the right of way may unknowingly relinquish control of the tree to the city. Conversely, a buyer purchasing property under the assumption that trees located in the right of way will be maintained by the city may be surprised to learn the municipality places that responsibility on the property owner.

### Types of tree ordinances

Trees and other landscaping regulations are frequently spread among zoning and land use ordinances. However, one of the guiding principles of ordinances is that they must not be ambiguous. Adopting ordinances that specifically address trees—both those owned by the municipality and those owned by residents—conveys a community’s commitment to growing and protecting its greenspaces.

When drafting a tree care ordinance, multiple considerations should be addressed. This can be done by passing separate ordinances for each scenario below or by passing one ordinance containing multiple subsections so that each area is addressed.

## Tree protection ordinances

Many cities already have tree protection regulations in place within other ordinances, such as land use ordinances. They are aimed at protecting trees of value to the community: historically significant trees, desirable species, trees of a certain size or trees that make a large impact on the overall canopy cover of the community. Most of these ordinances require permits before protected trees can be removed, encroached upon or pruned.

## Street tree ordinances

These are typically the most common tree ordinances, often found intertwined with tree protection ordinances. They address the planting, care and removal of trees—both public and private—located within public rights of way. Trees that are on private property but impact public interest or pose a public hazard or safety risk are also addressed here with provisions governing the responsibility for maintaining and removing them.

## Landscaping/development ordinances

These ordinances regulate the placement, number and types of trees and plants to be conserved or planted in landscaping projects, in areas of new development or when construction projects are undertaken. These ordinances are vital when recruiting new development endeavors, both residential and commercial. They can also be found within tree protection ordinances.

## Buffer/view ordinances

Designed primarily to prevent or to help resolve conflicts between property owners when trees block views or sunlight, these ordinances are less common. Many of these ordinances are mostly “self-enforcing” in that they set forth procedures allowing private parties to resolve conflicts without governmental intervention. They establish specifications for acceptable noise and visual buffers, and they are also useful for protecting water quality in streams and other water bodies by creating riparian buffer zones.

## A call to action

Over the past decade, Arkansas’ rural areas lost population while cities gained population, and the state’s overall population increased by 3.3 percent. Research consistently reveals the multiple benefits community trees offer residents, and as our cities and towns continue to grow, it is more important than ever to clearly define the rights and responsibilities related to planting, caring for and, when necessary, removing community trees. Municipalities with tree ordinances in place should regularly review them for timeliness and ensure they contain current best practices in urban forestry. Municipalities without tree ordinances are strongly urged to consider adopting them.



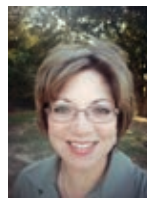
Tree ordinances provide valuable guidance on rights and responsibilities of both local government and private property owners when trees present a risk to the safety of neighboring property owners and/or the traveling public. Tree removal can be costly, and ordinances help clarify who assumes that financial burden when the safety risk outweighs the cost.

One incentive for adopting a tree ordinance is recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division as a Tree City USA community. Passing a suitable tree care ordinance is one of only four requirements a city needs to meet to obtain recognition, which includes street signs noting the accomplishment, recognition through media outlets and a complimentary shade tree provided annually to each Tree City USA community.

Next month, this column will address the process for reviewing or adopting a tree care ordinance. The Forestry Division will offer virtual workshops during the year to assist communities with tree care ordinances. In the meantime, if you need additional assistance with the process of crafting and adopting tree ordinances in your community, please reach out to your local forester, arborist or county extension agent.

## Consult with your city attorney

Tree ordinances provide authority, define responsibility, offer guidance to residents and establish minimum standards for a city’s tree program, including the removal or pruning of residential trees, which can be costly. Therefore, as stated in Arkansas Municipal League’s *Guidebook for Municipal Officials of Mayor-Council Cities*, it is recommended that the city attorney approve the structure and content of all proposed city ordinances to ensure they do not conflict with federal or state law and align with applicable court decisions. 🏛️



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).

# Influx of ARPA funds brings opportunity

By Byron Hicks, PE

As the CEO of an engineering firm, it is my responsibility to stay on top of legislation affecting our industry. That includes the status of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have been sent to the state of Arkansas, its cities and towns, and its counties. The U.S. Treasury Department sent the first round of funds—about one half of the total—in the summer of 2021 with the remainder of funds expected later this year. The state is slated to receive approximately \$1.57 billion while municipalities and counties are to receive \$440 million and \$550 million respectively.

There is a significant difference in these ARPA funds compared to other federal funds we have seen in the past. Historically, expenditure of federal funds must go through a strict approval process that ensures we are spending the funds in an appropriate way and on appropriate projects. With ARPA funds, there is less federal oversight. This puts the onus on the state, city or county to ensure the funds are spent on eligible projects or else risk having to pay back some or all of the funds. Currently, our best guide to establish that a project is eligible is to check it against the eligibility requirements for the state revolving fund for either water or wastewater.

Arkansas has committed most of its first round (approximately \$785 million) to broadband projects and addressing COVID-19 impacts. The second round of state funds should be available in July. A state steering committee is working to identify needs and make recommendations to the governor on the best uses of these ARPA funds. The steering committee has identified over \$5 billion in water and wastewater needs, which is much more than the amount of funds that will be available. The committee is anticipated to allocate funding for the second round and develop an application process for infrastructure projects.

Eligible expenditures for these funds currently include:

- Revenue replacement due to emergency/public health response.
- Premium pay for eligible workers, such as those in critical infrastructure sectors.
- Reimbursement expenditures due to the negative economic impacts of COVID.
- Water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure.

Funding for infrastructure projects must be used to serve existing residents in the area to be improved. It cannot be spent on infrastructure improvements built for the purpose of serving future growth. Money that is misspent is subject to being refunded to the U.S. Treasury Department.

These funds are to be spent by December 2024. One concern is that, with \$350 billion flooding the market, coupled with labor shortages and the limited time frame within which the money must be spent, it will cause inflated construction costs and material shortages.

Legislation is pending in Congress to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to allow new categories of spending for the ARPA funds. These categories would allow the funds to be spent on relief from natural disasters and for additional infrastructure projects including highways. The legislation would also allow for ARPA funds to be used as matching funds for federally funded projects. It would also extend the time frame in which the ARPA funds must be spent from December 31, 2024, to September 30, 2026. Senate Bill S3011 passed on December 19, 2021, and HB5735 was introduced on October 26, 2021, in the House. If made law, these bills should provide some relief to the issue of construction costs and material shortages.

In another recent development, on January 6 the Treasury released its final rule for the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. A major takeaway is that local governments may take advantage of a “standard allowance” for lost revenue of up to \$10,000,000. They can do this in lieu of the cumbersome calculation for lost revenue. These funds may be used for government services and will have streamlined reporting requirements compared to those who choose to stay with their calculated amount. The provisions in the final rule are effective April 1, 2022. 🏠



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# 2021/2022 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	\$6.659	\$6.744	\$0.071	\$0.485	\$1.951	\$1.961
February	\$6.607		\$0.163		\$0.893	
March	\$5.693		\$0.110		\$0.892	
April	\$6.135		\$0.162		\$0.889	
May	\$7.568		\$0.258		\$0.890	
June	\$6.753		\$0.206		\$1.665	
July	\$7.303		\$0.163		\$4.306	
August	\$6.988		\$0.150		\$0.854	
September	\$6.822		\$0.205		\$1.020	
October	\$6.597		\$0.295		\$0.964	
November	\$6.306		\$0.285		\$0.964	
December	\$6.12		\$0.374		\$0.96	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$79.549</b>	<b>\$6.744</b>	<b>\$2.443</b>	<b>\$0.485</b>	<b>\$16.250</b>	<b>\$1.961</b>

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	\$12,587,621.61	\$13,523,371.95	\$134,647.89	\$971,650.77	* \$3,688,464.32	*\$3,933,044.80
February	\$12,488,753.05		\$308,183.56		\$1,688,281.84	
March	\$10,760,836.82		\$207,709.60		\$1,685,424.74	
April	\$11,627,333.33		\$307,147.46		\$1,684,913.88	
May	\$14,343,742.05		\$489,324.42		\$1,687,137.50	
June	\$12,799,319.93		\$390,405.22		\$3,154,867.86	
July	\$13,841,564.30		\$309,031.02		** \$8,160,945.43	
August	\$13,245,023.56		\$285,053.21		\$1,617,878.89	
September	\$12,929,805.85		\$389,181.65		\$1,932,348.55	
October	\$13,228,061.49		\$592,445.41		\$1,933,129.73	
November	\$12,644,574.33		\$571,049.30		\$1,932,763.61	
December	\$12,272,528.63		\$749,777.69		\$1,933,129.71	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$152,769,164.95</b>	<b>\$13,523,371.95</b>	<b>\$4,733,956.43</b>	<b>\$971,650.77</b>	<b>\$31,099,286.06</b>	<b>\$3,933,044.80</b>

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

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

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



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 2022 with 2021 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax	Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$79,509,192	\$68,199,990	\$67,235,746	\$59,726,912	\$146,744,937	\$127,926,902	\$7,996	\$14,602
February		\$79,611,239		\$68,300,663		\$147,911,902		\$20,412
March		\$66,877,931		\$57,918,592		\$124,796,523		\$13,492
April		\$60,600,707		\$53,282,134		\$113,882,841		\$16,537
May		\$83,488,059		\$73,792,913		\$157,280,972		\$10,492
June		\$78,858,097		\$67,860,902		\$146,718,999		\$9,681
July		\$76,784,978		\$65,778,959		\$142,563,936		\$12,566
August		\$78,501,622		\$67,970,242		\$146,471,864		\$9,395
September		\$77,398,158		\$65,883,715		\$143,281,872		\$13,951
October		\$77,705,438		\$66,726,221		\$144,431,660		\$11,344
November		\$76,869,137		\$65,831,542		\$142,700,679		\$8,299
December		\$76,860,225		\$65,183,723		\$142,043,948		\$9,939
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79,509,192</b>	<b>\$901,755,580</b>	<b>\$67,235,746</b>	<b>\$778,256,518</b>	<b>\$146,744,937</b>	<b>\$1,680,012,098</b>	<b>\$7,996</b>	<b>\$150,710</b>
Averages	\$79,509,192	\$75,146,298	\$67,235,746	\$64,854,710	\$146,744,937	\$140,001,008	\$7,996	\$12,559





Egypt	2,381.87	2,264.95	Newark	19,253.90	Gosnell	46,986.45	44,011.88	Sebastian County	1,040,229.11	944,664.61
Jonesboro	1,656,266.22	1,360,246.57	Oil Trough	3,800.99	Joiner	8,040.98	7,145.11	Barling	99,235.95	86,337.82
Lake City	49,028.65	42,103.88	Pleasant Plains	5,920.13	Keiser	12,126.06	9,415.17	Bonanza	12,181.41	10,678.48
Monette	31,744.26	30,354.44	Southside	71,966.55	Leachville	32,922.81	24,722.57	Central City	9,566.66	9,322.78
Crawford County	545,354.28	840,985.72	Sulphur Rock	10,242.49	Luxora	15,210.05	14,612.74	Fort Smith	1,849,872.64	1,601,010.32
Alma	78,287.43	61,203.05	Izard County	58,541.28	Manila	59,451.58	41,456.51	Greenwood	197,475.80	166,249.98
Cedarville	19,138.42	15,744.06	Jackson County	313,519.96	Marie	1,743.83	1,041.99	Hackett	16,269.55	15,079.87
Chester	1,935.35	1,795.77	Amagon	863.01	Osceola	112,638.30	96,223.26	Hartford	10,325.24	11,922.75
Dyer	10,375.60	9,893.68	Beedeville	1,050.62	Victoria	322.93	458.97	Huntington	10,168.47	11,792.75
Kibler	13,507.10	10,853.69	Campbell Station	2,901.72	Wilson	12,368.23	11,201.43	Lavaca	50,842.34	42,509.63
Mountainburg	7,096.27	7,126.61	Diaz	15,309.06	Monroe County	NA	NA	Mansfield	14,194.35	13,427.03
Mulberry	20,737.77	18,691.83	Grubbs	3,764.73	Montgomery County	200,188.64	196,977.62	Midland	4,710.70	6,035.66
Rudy	1,747.19	688.94	Jacksonport	1,876.11	Black Springs	806.97	732.18	Sevier County	580,662.14	458,109.93
Van Buren	312,047.65	257,405.21	Newport	100,121.77	Glenwood	521.17	310.62	Ben Lomond	1,955.05	1,488.56
Crittenden County	948,311.19	1,488,240.88	Swifton	9,167.93	Mount Ida	8,372.36	7,957.80	De Queen	85,254.16	67,693.62
Anthonyville	1,199.95	1,208.20	Turkerman	21,350.14	Norman	2,547.01	2,795.58	Gillham	2,192.45	1,642.55
Clarkedale	2,986.54	2,874.11	Tupelo	875.52	Oden	1,513.09	1,715.80	Horatio	12,847.47	10,717.64
Crawfordsville	4,106.49	3,594.58	Weldon	712.91	Nevada County	125,787.65	114,134.92	Lockesburg	8,295.00	7,586.53
Earle	16,274.87	18,115.50	Jefferson County	494,158.49	Bluff City	1,197.98	1,050.76	Sharp County	292,977.87	259,781.61
Edmondson	2,159.91	3,204.36	Altheimer	9,942.31	Bodcaw	1,228.43	1,169.40	Ash Flat	14,205.49	12,042.29
Gilmore	1,407.94	1,776.28	Humphrey	3,056.97	Cale	741.12	669.44	Cave City	24,138.24	21,405.78
Horseshoe Lake	2,346.57	2,191.27	Pine Bluff	589,296.11	Emmet	4,030.48	4,025.10	Cherokee Village	54,754.96	47,653.05
Jennette	943.96	776.70	Redfield	21,498.82	Prescott	31,482.45	27,929.96	Evening Shade	5,826.47	5,308.44
Jericho	871.07	893.02	Sherrill	757.10	Rosston	2,761.44	2,211.69	Hardy	9,821.77	8,706.27
Marion	122,234.85	92,641.20	Wabbaseka	2,571.29	Willisville	1,502.55	1,288.03	Highland	13,622.84	12,841.01
Sunset	1,471.94	1,337.27	White Hall	79,724.17	Newton County	56,226.66	49,354.67	Horseshoe Bend	180.34	98.30
Turrell	4,135.82	4,153.66	Johnson County	158,753.57	Jasper	8,863.38	3,074.77	Sidney	2,663.53	2,224.14
West Memphis	217,946.39	196,951.66	Clarksville	117,700.72	Western Grove	3,147.41	2,533.72	Williford	1,095.93	921.60
Cross County	592,234.27	525,174.28	Coal Hill	10,288.31	Ouachita County	566,671.06	516,242.05	St. Francis County	455,698.45	409,215.41
Cherry Valley	8,390.03	7,911.34	Hartman	6,474.10	Bearden	10,164.27	9,998.09	Caldwell	11,377.32	10,065.34
Hickory Ridge	3,326.83	3,305.51	Knoxville	8,280.83	Camden	138,998.99	126,093.95	Colt	7,391.48	6,855.32
Parkin	11,585.54	13,428.61	Lamar	21,567.80	Chidester	3,313.87	2,991.15	Forrest City	328,327.92	278,764.84
Wynne	121,312.61	101,680.74	Lafayette County	87,522.73	East Camden	10,452.43	9,635.84	Hughes	26,639.60	26,133.64
Dallas County	183,578.17	161,998.65	Bradley	3,095.78	Louann	2,004.04	1,697.40	Madison	19,147.20	13,946.40
Desha County	138,659.94	109,619.92	Buckner	1,261.24	Stephens	10,085.68	9,221.84	Palestine	12,764.80	12,350.46
Arkansas City	6,337.58	4,422.45	Lewisville	6,994.17	Perry County	192,297.30	124,584.48	Wheatley	7,038.30	6,438.20
Dumas	67,437.97	54,549.16	Stamps	9,616.04	Adona	1,141.65	1,249.36	Widener	5,348.10	4,951.06
McGehee	64,875.96	48,904.14	Lawrence County	380,532.45	Bigelow	2,697.05	1,883.00	Stone County	196,215.47	173,167.56
Mitchellville	4,938.60	4,172.91	Alicia	1,217.69	Casa	919.45	1,022.20	Fifty Six	1,999.68	1,911.81
Reed	2,191.19	1,993.72	Black Rock	5,024.04	Fourche	429.08	370.62	Mountain View	36,411.90	30,367.87
Tillar	539.37	243.42	Hoxie	22,122.79	Houston	1,095.68	1,034.16	Union County	613,872.04	539,799.16
Watson	3,118.22	2,445.79	Imboden	5,449.80	Perry	2,007.47	1,614.00	Calion	16,954.87	15,736.81
Drew County	537,223.78	443,323.20	Lynn	2,196.95	Perryville	10,520.04	8,727.56	El Dorado	751,661.30	670,058.39
Jerome	0.00	553.14	Minturn	740.83	Phillips County	213,831.01	189,279.14	Felsenthal	3,220.94	3,856.05
Monticello	151,561.25	134,270.95	Portia	3,610.49	Elaine	10,697.69	9,096.70	Huttig	3,297.33	21,569.18
Tillar	2,513.45	2,893.34	Powhatan	885.59	Helena-West Helena	202,210.88	175,586.65	Junction City	20,729.80	19,239.85
Wilmar	7,091.53	7,247.54	Ravenden	3,627.52	Lake View	7,068.33	6,333.36	Norphlet	26,694.54	24,275.48
Winchester	2,459.60	2,368.57	Sedgwick	1,388.00	Lexa	4,499.60	4,082.64	Snackover	69,206.09	63,865.89
Faulkner County	1,071,054.77	860,830.00	Smithville	592.46	Marvell	18,644.92	16,958.75	Strong	18,122.10	18,171.37
Enola	2,812.72	2,621.22	Strawberry	2,282.10	Pike County	223,856.61	190,662.53	Van Buren County	262,541.76	217,232.75
Holland	5,183.19	4,319.58	Walnut Ridge	45,846.49	Antoine	1,546.95	1,222.73	Clinton	35,140.96	27,379.67
Mount Vernon	1,273.69	1,124.49	Lee County	36,271.20	Daisy	1,204.71	1,201.83	Damascus	3,431.46	2,630.64
Twin Groves	2,803.88	2,597.95	Aubrey	889.69	Delight	3,942.68	2,915.74	Fairfield Bay	27,269.61	22,676.09
Wooster	9,216.53	6,669.38	Haynes	1,005.02	Greenwood	27,461.86	22,845.23	Shirley	3,473.48	3,062.06
Franklin County	310,767.05	244,021.82	LaGrange	428.37	Murreesboro	20,466.34	17,149.60	Washington County	2,011,333.96	2,753,075.60
Altus	8,999.00	7,580.78	Marianna	29,450.27	Poinsett County	290,232.20	273,323.68	Elkins	71,052.25	52,491.45
Branch	4,005.57	3,670.38	Moro	1,458.10	Fisher	2,092.71	2,240.75	Elm Springs	37,400.07	34,809.29
Charleston	35,021.68	25,222.60	Rondo	1,342.75	Harrisburg	25,717.04	23,130.96	Farmington	149,600.30	118,422.94
Denning	3,909.34	4,536.02	Lincoln County	182,534.58	Lepanto	20,136.49	19,021.25	Fayetteville	1,853,217.06	1,458,580.48
Ozark	47,931.52	36,843.79	Gould	5,321.68	Marked Tree	26,577.37	25,783.69	Goshen	41,463.58	21,230.49
Wiederkehr Village	676.62	380.04	Grady	2,448.14	Trumann	86,021.86	73,311.69	Greenland	23,927.37	25,651.03
Fulton County	258,047.41	222,029.27	Star City	17,441.96	Tyronza	8,324.32	7,656.73	Johnson	71,190.33	66,486.53
Ash Flat	727.82	557.47	Little River County	311,098.87	Waldenburg	616.19	612.94	Lincoln	45,250.93	44,582.05
Cherokee Village	5,365.24	4,334.09	Ashdown	46,023.12	Weiner	7,522.10	7,194.52	Prairie Grove	138,968.10	87,736.85
Hardy	225.43	229.55	Foreman	10,552.59	Poik County	342,658.86	283,843.46	Springdale	1,481,070.55	1,272,541.09
Horseshoe Bend	70.85	92.91	Ogden	1,414.93	Cove	9,326.64	8,514.18	Tontitown	84,840.57	48,764.72
Mammoth Spring	5,983.56	5,339.73	Wilton	3,743.32	Grannis	14,501.60	12,347.80	West Fork	45,980.79	45,930.02
Salem	10,086.39	8,935.98	Winthrop	1,252.92	Hatfield	10,086.80	9,205.14	Winslow	7,199.91	7,750.82
Viola	2,305.83	1,841.86	Logan County	377,143.22	Mena	163,406.18	127,868.86	White County	1,529,143.81	1,293,849.02
Garland County	2,747,711.31	2,403,831.65	Blue Mountain	993.55	Vandervoort	3,362.26	1,939.10	Bald Knob	41,354.58	39,997.87
Fountain Lake	8,457.59	8,225.95	Booneville	43,004.99	Wickes	18,624.04	16,805.49	Beebe	138,345.99	100,995.66
Hot Springs	289,440.54	265,849.26	Caulksville	1,738.72	Pope County	477,006.99	403,814.03	Bradford	11,117.53	10,479.25
Lonsdale	1,833.96	1,537.25	Magazine	8,354.87	Atkins	52,945.22	48,496.92	Garner	3,459.88	3,921.09
Mountain Pine	10,416.21	12,592.40	Morrison Bluff	680.65	Dover	24,759.62	22,158.07	Georgetown	1,328.20	1,712.02
Grant County	278,932.97	248,480.38	Paris	35,858.19	Hector	7,611.22	7,235.95	Griffithville	2,541.62	3,106.50
Greene County	429,758.69	402,354.47	Ratcliff	1,885.49	London	17,333.59	16,707.00	Higginson	11,560.26	8,573.93
Delaplaine	900.25	1,599.12	Scranton	2,766.14	Pottsville	58,149.00	45,634.70	Judsonia	30,401.03	27,875.63
Life	5,879.78	6,313.77	Subiaco	4,527.47	Russellville	535,933.77	448,950.25	Kensett	22,956.55	22,753.36
Marmaduke	17,048.56	15,315.71	Lonoke County	872,461.81	Prairie County	109,322.12	93,432.82	Letona	3,935.41	3,520.70
Oak Grove Heights	15,529.38	12,255.33	Allport	1,444.54	Biscoe	4,145.30	3,886.56	McRae	10,100.88	9,416.14
Paragould	415,481.24	359,981.23	Austin	46,047.58	Des Arc	25,891.15	18,364.62	Pangburn	8,198.77	8,297.80
Hempstead County	753,463.85	673,472.24	Cabot	353,594.81	DeValls Bluff	7,067.40	6,620.68	Rose Bud	8,100.38	6,654.81
Blevins	4,319.48	3,765.09	Carlisle	27,056.28	Hazen	20,128.50	15,701.38	Russell	3,017.15	2,982.24
Emmet	269.97	513.96	Coy	1,157.84	Ulm	2,378.46	1,818.28	Searcy	376,110.23	315,592.24
Fulton	1,724.79	2,402.48	England	32,965.27	Pulaski County	1,099,878.36	960,630.32	West Point	2,787.58	2,554.23
Hope	134,263.76	120,662.04	Humnoke	2,914.57	Alexander	5,047.00	4,650.25	Woodruff County	99,925.65	100,183.07
McCaskill	854.90	1,147.45	Keo	2,754.87	Cammack Village	17,848.02	15,133.00	Augusta	24,909.73	23,471.21
McNab	449.95	812.78	Lonoke	56,907.35	Jacksonville	676,228.81	558,896.42	Cotton Plant	6,595.22	6,927.21
Oakhaven	974.88	753.02	Ward	80,543.33	Little Rock	4,647,619.22	3,813,279.90	Hunter	1,284.14	1,120.74
Ozan	749.91	1,015.98	Madison County	368,322.39	Maumelle	441,635.20	338,187.11	McCrary	19,735.79	18,454.78
Patmos	854.90	764.97	Hindsville	1,106.37	North Little Rock	1,481,775.46	1,227,664.74	Patterson	3,864.87	4,824.50
Perrytown	3,479.58	3,251.12	Huntsville	35,391.50	Sherwood	750,878.49	581,733.85	Yell County	154,264.30	278,700.72
Washington	1,409.82	2,151.48	St. Paul	1,364.52	Wrightsville	35,374.87	41,655.16	Belleville	2,741.63	3,261.84
Hot Spring County	392,856.97	331,057.45	Marion County	264,327.33	Randolph County	208,712.24	191,808.77	Danville	17,820.59	17,818.07
Donaldson	2,923.83	2,678.39	Bull Shoals	21,280.94	Biggers	4,403.29	4,650.40	Dardanelle	39,692.10	35,096.20
Friendship	1,679.88	1,650.10	Flippin	14,663.35	Maynard	5,473.63				

# 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.

**CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER**—The city of Charleston is accepting applications for a full-time certified police officer. We are looking for motivated, career-minded individuals who want to make a difference in our community. Applicants must be 21 years of age and must be able to meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Experienced officers certified in the state of Arkansas are preferred. Must be willing to work 8-hour shifts. This position offers competitive pay including benefits (paid health insurance, vacation, sick leave and retirement). Interested and qualified applicants please email resumes to [batchley@charlestonar.org](mailto:batchley@charlestonar.org). The city of Charleston is an equal opportunity employer.

**PLANNER II**—The city of Siloam Springs is accepting applications for the position of planner II. Under the direction of the community development director, the position is responsible for providing professional planning services within the Planning Division of the Community Development Department. The planner II performs a variety of complex current and long-range planning functions including development plan review, administration of the city's zoning and subdivision regulations and implementation of the city's comprehensive plan. Minimum education and/or experience requirements include a bachelor's degree in urban planning or a closely related field and three years of private or public planning experience. A master's degree may substitute for one year of the required planning experience. Applicants who can provide a combination of education, experience and training that is equivalent to the minimum qualifications will also be considered. Professional certification of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is required or must be obtained within two years of the hire date. Salary: \$25/an hour DOE. Open until filled. For a complete job description, visit [www.siloamsprings.com/Jobs.aspx](http://www.siloamsprings.com/Jobs.aspx).

**PLANNER II**—The city of Springdale is currently accepting applications for the position of planner II—active transportation coordinator. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department. This posting will remain open until the position is filled. Under general direction, leads the development, monitoring, tracking and implementation of the city's bicycle and pedestrian program and activities (active transportation portion of the Master Street Plan) in order to provide safe, convenient access for bicyclists, pedestrians, and users of all ages and abilities. Qualified applicants must possess a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) from a four-year college in publication administration or business management or related field and two years of related experience with a minimum of two years of project management or supervisory experience. Starting salary range is \$38,600 - \$48,250. Apply online at [www.springdalear.gov/789/Current-Job-Openings](http://www.springdalear.gov/789/Current-Job-Openings). If you have any questions or prefer a paper application, contact the Human Resources Department at 479-756-7714 or [jobs@springdalear.gov](mailto:jobs@springdalear.gov). Resumes will not be accepted without an accompanying application. The city of Springdale is an EOE and drug-free workplace.

**POLICE CHIEF**—The city of DeValls Bluff is accepting applications for a full-time police chief. All interested applicants should send a resume to DeValls Bluff City Hall, Attn: Mayor, P.O. Box 297, DeValls Bluff, AR 72017. Any questions, please call Mayor Brian Dodson at 870-998-2577.

**SANITATION SUPERINTENDENT**—The city of Jonesboro seeks applicants for the position of sanitation superintendent. This exempt position directs, plans, promotes, organizes and administers all duties related to sanitation for the city of Jonesboro. The successful candidate should have a vision for the direction of the Jonesboro Sanitation Department and prior experience leading a large department is preferred. Must be

prepared to make presentations to city council, committees and the public. Minimum qualifications: Broad knowledge of such fields as business administration, operating heavy equipment, etc. Waste disposal experience preferred. Equivalent to a four-year college degree, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Three years related experience and/or training in similar operations, and two years related management experience preferred. Valid DL, CDL preferred. Submit a cover letter and resume with your application. Salary: Grade 123/Range \$64,802 – \$69,082 (starting range without council approval). Review position and apply online at [www.jonesboro.org](http://www.jonesboro.org). Applicants may also contact the Jonesboro Human Resources office at 300 South Church Street, Suite 100, Jonesboro, AR 72401, 870-933-4640 to submit a paper application. Position open until filled.

**SENIOR PLANNER**—The city of Jonesboro seeks applicants for the position of senior planner. This position is responsible for helping assist, regulate and approve planning and development activities for the city. This position will assist director of planning in the development and review process; reviews rezoning requests, prepares reports and makes recommendations; proposes and revises ordinances, policies and regulations related to planning. This position will also oversee the redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization program through property acquisition, land banking, project management and land disposal, and performs various other duties. Minimum qualifications and skills: broad knowledge of such fields as accounting, marketing, business administration, finance, etc. Equivalent to a four-year college degree plus two years related experience and/or training, and 12 to 18 months related management experience preferred, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Arkansas Real Estate License preferred. Valid driver's license. American Institute of Certified Planners certification preferred. A successful background check. Pay Grade 116—minimum starting salary \$41,267. Review position and apply online at [www.jonesboro.org](http://www.jonesboro.org). Applicants may also contact the Jonesboro Human Resources Office, 300 South Church Street, Suite 100, Jonesboro, AR 72401, 870-933-4640 to submit a paper application. Open until filled. EOE.

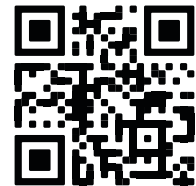
**STREET/WATER DEPT. CREW EMPLOYEE**—The city of Cotter Public Works Department is accepting applications for a street/water department crew employee. Experience in street and water systems maintenance to perform a variety of semi-skilled and skilled tasks in the construction, lawn maintenance and repair of city streets, water line, parks, cemeteries and related facilities. Operate mowers, tractors, vehicles and other equipment; utilize a variety of hand and power tools for maintenance work; assist in routine maintenance of such equipment. CDL License preferred but not required. Salary range \$13.00-\$15.00 per hour based on experience. Includes retirement plan and health insurance. Applications may be obtained on our website, [www.cityofcotter.org](http://www.cityofcotter.org), or at Cotter City Hall, 115 McLean Ave, Cotter AR 72626 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday – Friday. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. No phone calls please. The city of Cotter is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**WATER SUPERINTENDENT**—The city of Stamps is accepting applications for a water superintendent. Minimum qualifications: Treatment 2, Distribution 1 and Class 1 Wastewater License, pass a drug screening, HS diploma or GED. Benefits include insurance, paid vacation/holidays and retirement. Salary is negotiable. Applications are available at Stamps City Complex, 207 E. Antigo Street, Stamps, AR 71860.

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