

# City & Town

DECEMBER 2022 VOL. 78, NO. 12

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—A young bowler and her family wait to see how many pins drop at Morrilton’s newest amenity, Playland, which features a bowling alley, skating rink, arcade and more. Read about the unique, city-owned entertainment center inside on page 18. Read also about Crossett Mayor and League 2022-2023 District 4 Vice President Crystal Marshall and the good things happening in her adopted hometown, and review the state statutes governing municipal budgeting, annexation reports and the first council meeting of the new year. And the 2023 Winter Conference is right around the bend. Check out the expanded agenda and registration info in this issue.—atm

## Features

- 14 Collaboration essential for Crossett mayor**  
 For Crossett Mayor and League 2022-2023 District 4 Vice President Crystal Marshall, relationship-building has been the key to doing more with less in the Ashely County city that founders dubbed the “Forestry Capital of the South.”
- 18 Playland a hit in Morrilton**  
 Bowling alleys and skating rinks aren’t typically offered by municipal parks and recreation departments, but Morrilton had an opportunity to reimagine a defunct local business as a city-owned, family-friendly amenity.
- 22 Reminders: budgets, annexations and council meetings**  
 Review the state statutes that govern the municipal budgeting process, the filing of annexation reports and the first meeting of the year for city councils.

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

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# From the Desk of the Executive Director

## Of variants<sup>1</sup> and Pinocchios<sup>2</sup>

One look at the title I've come up with and right outta the chute the local controller is flummoxed.<sup>3</sup> I could stop typing right now and my work would be complete. That's not true of course but I did get an eye roll and an eye roll is fuel for another few paragraphs.

As we see Thanksgiving falling behind in the rearview mirror, Christmas is but a dart about town away. Before you know it, we'll be headed to church for Christmas Eve services. Then it'll be late-night, bleary-eyed parents trying to put together the complex toys that seemed so simple when you made the purchase. LC and I will likely sleep in, to the extent that Zorro, Olive and Haddee will allow. We'll get a brunch put together for our family and at some point make a trek to see Mother Hayes at "The Home."<sup>4</sup> We visitors to The Home refer to Mother Hayes' apartment as "The Oven."<sup>5</sup> This holiday season will be vastly different from last year, when the District of Columbia son and his significant other came to visit and the family all gathered at The Oven on the evening of December 21, 2021. On the afternoon of the 23rd he notified the entire family that the Washingtonians had tested positive for the Rona, likely the Omicron variant. You already know where I'm going with this. The controller and I succumbed later that day as did the controller-in-training, Mother Hayes, who was 89 at the time, did not get sick nor did the oldest kid, Franz.<sup>6</sup> LC and I stayed huddled at the Hot Springs condo from December 23 until January 3 or 4. It was not a great Christmas as you no doubt have gathered. At least New Year's was a bust, too! Good times.

I'm writing this on Sunday, December 4. Normally I'm a bit timelier. "A bit" being the key part of that sentence. However, several things collided in our crazy world of Hayes and here I am on a Sunday night banging away at the keyboard. What collided you ask? Cue the controller: "Nobody asked. Get on with it." Ahh, sweet music to my ears. The collision of both professional and personal is as follows. The League's governing body meets in November every year. Due to a hectic national and state travel schedule for League leaders, myself and the staff<sup>7</sup> the meeting was held on November 30. That's much later than normal. It'll come as no surprise that the following day, the First of December, I was worn out. Given the pace of November I wrote it off to just that. Two gallons in a one-gallon jug so to speak!<sup>8</sup> As it turns out, I was wrong.<sup>9</sup> Friday morning I felt awful. So, I took a home



<sup>1</sup> I speak of the Covid variants. There are now too many to name.

<sup>2</sup> Most of us relate to Pinocchio through the 1940 Disney film. Walt D got the storyline from the 1883 Italian children's novel *The Adventures of Pinocchio* written by Carlo Collodi of Florence. Pinocchio is spelled Pinokkjo in Italian according to Wikipedia. <https://bit.ly/3Y0ENs8>

<sup>3</sup> What a great word! It originates from jolly old England! <https://bit.ly/3UAzSLe>

<sup>4</sup> My brother and I did not put our mother in a HOME. She lives in an incredible place called Chenal Pines. She has a wonderful apartment, top-notch meals, a card group, a Mahjong group or two, and several Happy Hour groups.

<sup>5</sup> I stole this reference from a dear friend, Judge Tim Fox. It fit his parents' home and it fits Mother Hayes' abode.

<sup>6</sup> Every six months or so I feel the need to explain my references to the local controller and the rest of my crazy clan. My lovely bride Alison is my local controller. The title was bestowed early in my column writing while discussing the need for municipal local control to remain intact. That message is as timely as ever, given that a legislative session will begin in January. The controller-in-training is the daughter, Bliss. The Washingtonians are my son Colin and his much better half, Emily. Franz is a hotelier and is the oldest of the kiddos. We are immensely proud of them! We very much miss the youngest, Wells. He, however, gained his angel wings a couple of years ago and is with us constantly.

<sup>7</sup> The National League of Cities City Summit was held in Kansas City in mid-November, and as you know the League is constantly training, meeting, etc. For those of you who have never attended City Summit, I cannot recommend it enough. Networking with peers from across the country is invaluable. During Winter Conference, find some of the past presidents or League officers and ask them about it. You'll be blown away by how supportive they are of the meeting.

<sup>8</sup> That is one of my favorite sayings when folks are trying to do too much. When the kids were growing up I had another version: "You've only put a half-gallon in that one-gallon jug. Now get back to studying!" They love my sayings.

<sup>9</sup> The joy emanating from the controller is ethereal! I'm wrong. Yep, it happens. And again, cheering and mucho joy.

COVID test. You know, the ones in the orange box that got mailed to every person in the U. S. of A. For reasons I still can't understand we got eight of them. Merry Christmas? The heat from the controller's brow could roast a chicken. Not fever heat, its irritation heat because I'm dragging this out. Yay me! The test was positive. While I'm not as sick as I was last Christmas, I've been exhausted! So far the controller has not succumbed.<sup>10</sup> The LC in training however came down with it when I did. The family that COVIDs together stays together is what I always say!

The good news of course is that we're vaccinated, not terribly sick and it's not Christmas yet! We have plenty of time to get into a festive spirit and enjoy the season of giving. Starting at Thanksgiving I feel like the world begins to breathe a bit more deeply and starts to examine itself. That translates to us being more forgiving, nicer, kinder and more thoughtful. I'm routinely amazed how much people sacrifice for others. In our world of cities and towns we need look no further than our people and services. Water plants run and provide ample supplies so mothers around the state can scrub up the little ones before putting them in onesies for a fitful night of sleep while waiting on Saint Nick. Electricity keeps those lights on for late-night gift wrapping and the aforementioned toy building. Our public service employees are ever present to ensure we are safe and sound as we sleep and as we travel from home to home and church. If we get a white Christmas those city street crews will work to be sure we can get to Grandma's! Working for a municipality isn't just a job, it's a calling. A real and incredible calling.

Giving of oneself to make the community you reside in better isn't just admirable. It's real giving. It's what the Christmas season is all about. We take care of those who cannot care for themselves. We rescue those who suffer violence from others and we do everything in our power to keep them safe. We face those in society who will not respect the law or the sanctity of life and it's done without need for a thank you regardless of the danger faced. Our efforts mean professionals arrive at the scene of a terrible vehicle crash or fire and do incredibly heroic things without so much as a second thought about their own safety. Even the less glamorous or "sexy" work like picking up the garbage and making sure the traffic lights are operational is done with a smile and a devotion to make the city a better place to live. After all, think about the garbage piling up if not collected, or the pile ups occurring if the lights aren't synchronized correctly. That's real giving and I'm overwhelmed when I think about what you do on a daily basis with little in the way of pay or recognition. Giving, it seems, comes in all forms.

At this point I'm sure someone is wondering about the title to this month's column. Certainly "giving" COVID is not in the Christmas spirit. Pinocchio is an even more bizarre reference, I'll admit, but bear with me. I was recently on the receiving end of an incredible kindness. (More about that later, but I'm hopeful it will drive home my point.) As illustrated above, municipal officials and employees give of themselves and their skill sets to Arkansans every day and never seek the spotlight nor ask for kudos. Of course, there's a Scrooge<sup>11</sup> reading this somewhere noting they are just doing their job thus we don't need to recognize them or their efforts. I disagree. We need to celebrate our employees and our actions and services. Municipalities constantly provide services and programs. Those actions make for a better living experience. That sounds like a great gift to me. The gift of community.

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<sup>10</sup> To be clear, LC is one of the toughest human beings I've ever known. A brief illustration. Many years ago while traveling in New England on vacation she got a bad steamer (a clam) for dinner. To say the food poisoning was violent would make violent seem like Sunday school. I've never seen a sicker person. After eight or nine hours she fell asleep. She promptly woke up at 8:30 a.m. saying, and I quote, "That art show we wanted to go to is at 10. We need to get moving if we're going to be there when the doors open." Unbelievable. I recently had a hang nail and am pretty sure we should have gone to the ER.

<sup>11</sup> Ebenezer Scrooge is the protagonist in the classic novel *A Christmas Carol*. Charles Dickens wrote the tale in 1843 and it rapidly became a classic. I don't know about you but two things immediately occur to me when I hear the words Ebenezer or Scrooge. First, those aren't great monikers and I would have long ago changed my name. Second, I need to re-read the original but I love so many of the theatrical versions that I never seem to have the time to read it. On the movie side here are my favorites in no particular order: the 1951 version starring Alastair Sim (Sim voiced Scrooge in the 1971 cartoon version and it's pretty good), the 1984 version starring George C. Scott, the 1999 version starring Patrick Stewart and, what is maybe my all-time favorite, 1988's *Scrooged* starring the incomparable Bill Murray. His impression of Richard Burton leaves me in stitches every time despite having seen it dozens of times!

As we enter the season of giving and love, I'd like to share a recent personal experience that continues to renew my faith in our fellow human beings. For those of you that follow me on social media you may recall a post from a month ago or so regarding a five-inch-tall wooden Pinocchio figurine that belonged to my father. It was produced in 1940, the same year the film debuted. My dad would have been 5 at the time. I cannot recall a time the figurine didn't sit upon my dad's dresser, until his death several years ago. He never spoke of it except to say that it was his favorite toy as a little boy. I never asked who gave it to him, when he got it or anything else for that matter. It seemed to me that it was his story to keep and nobody else's. He always had a smile on his face when he looked at it. He also made sure my brother and I saw the Disney<sup>12</sup> classic any possible time we could. Against that background, I share my pain: In a crushing incident, I inadvertently knocked Pinocchio off my bedside table and it broke into three pieces. I was truly heartbroken and remain very upset with myself.

A few days went by while I mourned my stumbling actions which would be comical if not for the destruction of a family heirloom.<sup>13</sup> One morning I entered the office amongst the clamor that all offices go through at the beginning of the day with folks getting settled, grabbing coffee, finalizing the week's to-do list and generally getting prepared for the day and week ahead. There was a small box on my desk but I didn't have time to open it with a meeting starting and several more back-to-back. Later, when the dust settled a bit, I looked at the box. It was marked fragile and was from a work acquaintance that I've come to know and admire. Not a League employee<sup>14</sup> but he works closely with us on various items. I unwrapped the item and lo and behold it was an identical Pinocchio figurine! I was stunned. Imagine taking the time to find another one and giving it to me. That's giving. That's the spirit of Christmas.

It is such an honor to work with each of you. It brings great happiness to my heart knowing that the League and the League's staff are with you every day in city hall helping to make your municipality a wonderful place to live. From the Hayes-Bratton household, we wish you a peaceful, loving and kind Merry Christmas!

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes  
Executive Director  
Arkansas Municipal League

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<sup>12</sup> We loved that movie, even the parts that were a little scary. I personally loved Jiminy Cricket serving as Pinocchio's conscience and as the deuteragonist in the film. <https://bit.ly/3F63nyZ> Oh boy, you should get a load of the LC! "Deuteragonist?!" Admittedly I had to look the word up. The deuteragonist is the second most-important character in a story, while the protagonist (Pinocchio) is the lead character. The word stems from ancient Greek. <https://bit.ly/3FuoBif>

<sup>13</sup> Think about all the performers, comics and actors that became famous for their slapstick acts by falling off ladders, barely dodging trains and a myriad of other pratfalls! Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Lucille Ball, Chris Farley, Tim Conway, Chevy Chase and Will Ferrell to name but a few of those who perfected the art of physical humor. <https://bit.ly/3VTD4CZ> And of course one of my all-time favorites...The Three Stooges!

<sup>14</sup> An Angel of sorts and a Charles Angel specifically. Thanks, Charles!





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Department Head/Partner



## Who we are ...

"I have always enjoyed the variety of landscapes and diverse geology that exists across the state of Arkansas. I feel very fortunate that my career involves providing recommendations for design and construction of projects, using these different materials."

Away from work, Steven loves spending time with his wife and three kids - especially in the outdoors, whenever possible.

## Bridge-load posting certification deadline set for Dec. 31

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

The Federal Highway Administration and the Arkansas Department of Transportation administer the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and the regulations implementing this federal law place the compliance responsibility on the official with jurisdiction over each bridge. In addition to identifying structural deficiencies during the inspection process, the official must also advise the traveling public of any weight restrictions if a bridge is found to not be capable of safely supporting legal-load vehicles. If the bridge is determined to not be capable of safely supporting a minimum of a 3-ton vehicle, it is the official's responsibility to close the bridge until it is adequately strengthened or replaced.

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

Copies of required documents, as well as the Local Government Procedures for Compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards manual, can be downloaded at [www.ardot.gov/divisions/bridge/bridge-rating-and-inventory](http://www.ardot.gov/divisions/bridge/bridge-rating-and-inventory). For questions or additional assistance, contact Todd Russell, district construction engineer, at [todd.russell@ardot.gov](mailto:todd.russell@ardot.gov) or 870-836-6401.

## Time to levy property taxes

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

Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the Quorum Court to determine whether its levying

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

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

## League defensive driving program earns recognition

The Arkansas Municipal League's defensive driving program has been recognized by the National Safety Council as a 2021 Excellence in Driver Safety Training Center. The award is given to instructors and training centers "who have exemplified excellence in advancing progress on the road to zero deaths by delivering defensive driving programs." The annual Driver Safety Training Awards recognize training centers and instructors for outstanding performance, demonstrating exemplary leadership as well as dedication to advancing the Council's mission of eliminating preventable deaths. Congratulations to League Loss Control Liaison Allen Green, who conducts the NSC Defensive Driving Program for Municipal Employees. To learn more about the program visit <https://bit.ly/3Fz1fkl>.

## Event Calendar

**January 11-13, 2023**, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference

**March 26-28, 2023**, National League of Cities, Congressional City Conference

## Obituaries

**ROBERT W. MORRIS**, 65, a former council member for the town of Ulm, died November 28.

**JAMES HAROLD WIER, Sr.**, 74, who served as a council member for the city of Ward from 2016-2021, died November 21.

**ROSE MARIE WILKINSON**, 93, who served the city of Haskell as a council member and as recorder/treasurer, died October 26. Wilkinson was an active member of the Arkansas Municipal League and served as District 2 vice president in 2010-2011. She was named a lifetime member in 2019.

## League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes elected to NLC Board of Directors

Mark R. Hayes, executive director of the Arkansas Municipal League, was elected to the National League of Cities Board of Directors by NLC's membership at the organization's 2022 City Summit in Kansas City, Missouri. Hayes was elected to a two-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy, governance and membership activities. NLC is the largest and most representative organization for cities, their elected leaders and municipal staff, and advocates for city priorities in Washington by building strong federal-local partnerships.

"The Arkansas Municipal League has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the National League of Cities for many years, and I am honored to serve NLC as well as the cities and towns of Arkansas during my term on the board," Hayes said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues from around the country to help guide NLC's programs and initiatives to ensure strong local government and a high quality of life for every resident."

As a member of the board, Hayes will meet in March, June and November to guide NLC's strategic direction. Board members are selected by a 15-member nominating committee and are confirmed by a vote from NLC's membership at the organization's annual business meeting.

"The National League of Cities Board of Directors is critical in guiding our organization's priorities and policies," said NLC President Victoria Woodards, mayor of Tacoma, Washington. "NLC's Board is made of a group of incredible and diverse leaders, and I look forward to working closely together with them to advance priorities for cities, towns and villages across the country."

More than 3,000 mayors, council members and other delegates from nearly every state and the District of Columbia convened in Kansas City for City Summit. Local leaders are on the frontlines of the nation's most pressing challenges and are working hard to pioneer innovative solutions that move our cities, towns and villages forward. 🏡





Crossett Mayor Crystal Marshall, the League's 2022-2023 District 4 vice president, is guided by her faith, humility, friendliness and humor, and she views herself as a servant-leader. "I definitely see myself holding the people up rather than the people holding me up. I'm here to serve them."

## Crossett mayor turns small things into big change

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**N**estled off the beaten path amid the timberlands of deep south Arkansas, the closest interstate to Crossett is I-20, more than 50 miles to the south over the Louisiana border. Mayor Crystal Marshall, the League's 2022-2023 District 4 vice president, partially credits this relative isolation with her adopted hometown's strong community spirit. "It just creates an atmosphere here where the people really come together," she says. "It's the most cohesive community I've lived in. In good times and in bad times, the people genuinely and with a genuine heart come together." Being a non-native gives her a unique perspective as well. "I see it clear because I'm not from here. A lot of the people that are from here, it's all they've known, but I know how special that is."

Marshall was born in Nevada, Missouri, and when she was 4 her family moved to a small city in southeast Texas called Brenham, which lies at about the midway point between Austin and Houston. Brenham is the home and headquarters of Blue Bell Creameries, and proud of it, Marshall says. "We had big billboards up that said 'The cows think Brenham is heaven.' We just leaned in."

When she graduated high school at 17, Marshall had every intention of staying in Texas and continuing her education there, but when her parents moved back to Missouri she had a change of heart and followed suit. After establishing residency she enrolled at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin to study computer information science and international business. She also



Crossett's logo references the city's agri-forestry history. Its founders dubbed it the "Forestry Capital of the South" and timber remains the main driver of the local economy.

had the opportunity to study abroad, spending time in Helsinki, Finland, and Santiago, Chile.

Upon graduation, her advisor suggested she enhance her career opportunities by seeking a corporate internship. She landed one with Walmart in Bentonville, and thus began Marshall's Arkansas adventure. After her internship she was offered a full-time position as a computer programmer and later as a systems analyst, managing multiple teams in multiple countries. "We had a lot of fun, and the Walmart world just prepares you for pretty much anything," she says. "If you can be successful there, there's not a lot that the world's gonna throw at you that you can't navigate."

It's also where she met her husband, Courtney, who is a Crossett native. When she became pregnant with twins, Reese and Reagan, who are now 12 years old, she stepped down from her position to focus on being a mom. Courtney also decided that he wanted to be able to be more present as a dad and left his position at Walmart as well. Seeking a slower pace, they moved to Crossett in 2014, and he took over his family's small-scale crude oil business.

Though she'd visited Crossett and her in-laws over the years, Marshall hadn't gotten to know the city and its people. She set out to change that. She became a regular volunteer at her daughters' school, and she started attending city council meetings to learn about what was going on in her new hometown. She wasn't versed in politics—she had only recently learned what the term alderman meant—and she certainly hadn't contemplated

running for office at that point. "This was never a goal, a plan, an objective. It was not on my radar."

That changed too. It wasn't long before her new friends took notice of her keen interest in local government and encouraged her to run for a seat on the city council. "I ran the best possible way a person can run—unopposed. Which is likely the only reason I won. I mean, no one knew who I was."

Marshall served two terms on the council and was very engaged, she says. "I kind of made it a full-time job and plugged in with all of the department heads and just helped." She helped put together the city's new employee handbook and a raise package, the first the staff had received in several years. "There were just a lot of needs. They needed my help and I like to help."

Building relationships across city departments, with state agencies, and with other cities and towns through the Arkansas Municipal League has been crucial for Crossett, Marshall says. When longtime former Mayor Scott McCormick died in April of 2020, her collaborative personality made her the logical successor, many in the city believed. She faced four challengers for the position and won. "It was kind of a natural progression," she says. "I just really felt like Crossett needed me at that time, and I think we've been good for each other." Marshall didn't face a challenger in this year's election, and in January 2023 she will begin her first full term as mayor.

Confronting the burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic was of course a priority when Marshall took office in the spring of 2020, and as a council member she had already

spearheaded a local task force to help the city stay informed and acquire PPE for employees. She also faced budgeting challenges brought on by both the pandemic and a major loss of jobs at the Georgia-Pacific mill. The company terminated more than 550 employees—about half of its Crossett workforce—when it closed part of its operations in mid-2019. That was a blow, Marshall says. “You’ve got the human aspect for the workers, but you’ve also got the financial hit to the town from a municipal level.” The city had to tighten its budget to ensure it could continue to provide the services citizens need and perhaps take for granted. “Which is kind of what we want, right? I don’t want you to worry about whether your garbage is going to get picked up or your toilet is going flush, or if you call 911 if somebody’s going to show up. I want you to take that for granted.”

Marshall’s focus on collaboration paid off through those difficult times. “It was a time when teamwork couldn’t have possibly been more important.” Tightening the budget was difficult, but city services are more efficient now as a result, she says. The Ashley County city of 4,822 lost about 10 percent of its population since the 2010 census, which wasn’t quite as much as they feared. “We are actively working to turn that around and recruit new industry, recruit new residents and make Crossett a place that people choose to be.”

The city has a few strong leads on prospective new industries locating in Crossett, the mayor says. “We have two that are on the horizon that have not officially signed, but we’ve been courting them for a couple of years now and if we were to secure them, it would change the trajectory of Crossett forever.” Marshall is hopeful she’ll have very good news to announce on that front in the next six months.

Crossett is a forestry community at its core and was founded as a company town by the Crossett Lumber Company. Its successor, Georgia-Pacific, remains the city’s largest employer. The city has embraced its unique history with a focus on heritage tourism at sites like the Yale Camp cabins, which are in the process of being restored.

Another priority for Marshall is the restoration of the historic E.C. Crossett Youth Center, which was a critical community amenity for the city’s Black families during the era of segregation. Crossett was fortunate to receive a Community Development Block Grant through the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to help fund the effort, she says. The architect is putting together a bid package for the building and the mayor



As part of a partnership that began in 1912 between the Crossett Lumber Company and Yale University’s forest management program, Yale Camp for many years hosted forestry students from across the globe and provided hands-on learning opportunities until its closure in 1966. The city has moved the largely well-preserved camp to Crossett City Park and is in the process of creating a heritage tourism site.

hopes work gets underway within the next six months. “It’s at one of those critical points where you’re either going to save that building or you’re going to lose that building, and that building is very important to this town and to the people in this town, so we’re very thankful for that.”

The city is also continuing to improve its parks, with a focus on Crossett City Park and its centerpiece, Lucas Pond, a 51-acre aquatic feature in the heart of the city. “Game and Fish stocks it once a year, but a lot of people in this town supplement their food source with it,” Marshall says. “We could go out there right now and there’s somebody fishing.” It has long needed some “love and attention,” she says, and the city has been working to clear brush and undergrowth, revealing more of the pond as they go. “I say it’s like unwrapping a present.”

While more quality-of-life amenities are on the horizon as part of the city’s 10-year improvement plan, some infrastructure needs are more pressing, like a forthcoming major wastewater project. “It’s not nearly as exciting to talk about, but it is when you think about it as an economic development project,” Marshall says. Their current limited-capacity system is a hinderance to recruiting new industry. “This is a very significant win for economic development.”

In July of this year, Crossett celebrated a major infrastructure victory with a new overlay on Main Street, part of a partnership with ARDOT to turn the portion of state Highway 133 into a city street in exchange for the much-needed improvements. As a city without a traditional downtown, that corridor is very important, Marshall says. She credits the vision of Steve



Napper, attorney for the State Aid Street Program, with making the collaboration possible. They hope that it becomes a formal program available to assist cities and towns. In the meantime, ARDOT has replicated the partnership in the city of Greenwood, where a section of Highway 10 was recently designated a city street. It's also a prime example of the kind of relationship-building that benefits everyone involved, Marshall says. "It ended up not only being a wonderful thing for our town and for ARDOT, but it just improved that relationship and now there's no telling what we'll do next together. In my opinion, pretty much everything in this world is done through relationships, and you just can never invest in them too much."

With the downtown corridor rejuvenated, Marshall saw an opportunity to revive the city's old holiday tradition of stringing Christmas lights along the overhead power lines that run the length of Main Street. Longtime residents have noticed, she says, including one who approached her while shopping at Brookshire's. "She stopped me and she actually cried literal tears, thanking me for getting this done and telling me that it reconnected her with a part of her childhood that meant so much to her." You don't get many opportunities in life to do something that affects people that profoundly, Marshall says. "It's funny because it's not always the big things. Most of the time it's little things, like Christmas lights on Main Street." 🏠



The city is seeking a National Register of Historic Places designation for the E.C. Crossett Youth Center and has received a CDBG grant to help save the property.



Reviving the old Christmas in Crossett tradition of stringing lights the length of Main Street has been a hit in the Ashley County city.



In a unique municipal parks and rec venture, Morrilton has purchased a long-disused bowling alley and skating rink, turning it into the city's newest amenity.

## Morrilton bowling strikes with Playland purchase

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Generations of kids have grown up with the familiar sounds of breaking pins and gutter balls, the electronic blips and clacking flippers of pinball machines, and the whoosh of roller skates gliding around the rink as lights flash and pop music blares. Thanks to a unique move by the city, kids of all ages in Morrilton have the opportunity to hit the rink, bowl for a strike or try to beat their high score on Galaga at Playland, which reopened its doors in October. Bowling alleys and skating rinks aren't typical municipal amenities, even in cities with a broad array of parks and rec options. Then again, Morrilton takes pride in thinking "outside the box," Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer says.

For many years the bowling alley/skating rink on Howell Road off of Highway 64 on the east side of the city was a popular destination for families from Morrilton and the surrounding region, but Playland went out of business and, apart from a small church that rented the space for a time, sat empty for more than 13 years. For almost as many years, Lipsmeyer has had his eye on the property with a vision of turning it into a city amenity. The longer it sat unused, the less financial incentive there was for a private investor to revive Playland, he says. "We were the only ones I felt like that could bring it back." And Morrilton has brought



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

Playland's vintage sign on Highway 64 invites bowlers and skaters to enjoy family-friendly fun.

Playland back. The 22,000 square foot facility features a 10-lane bowling alley, a skating rink, an arcade, a snack bar and party rooms.

Lipsmeyer initially received some pushback from members of the city council and the public who didn't think the city should get into the bowling alley/skating

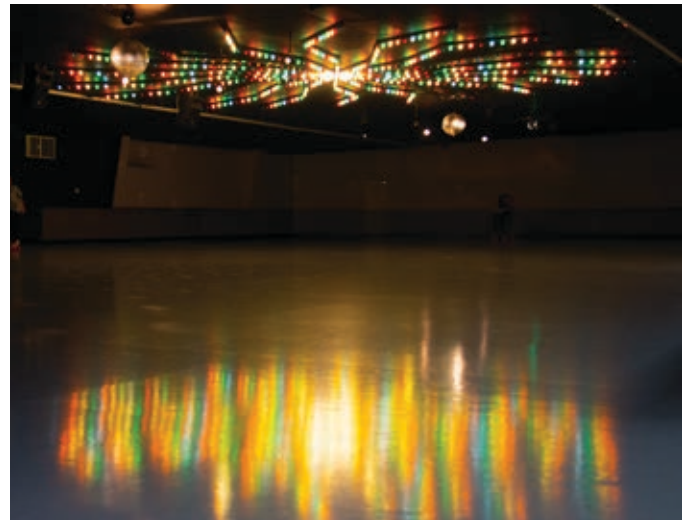


The pro shop offers bowling shoes, custom drilled balls and other player accessories.

rink business. “I get that, but if this was a viable business, we would not be coming after it. But it wasn’t. It was just sitting here. It was going to sit here for another 13 years if we didn’t come in and do it.” When the price came down, the council agreed to move forward with the purchase and closed on Playland at the end of 2021. The building was fortunately in good shape, he says, and the city was able to do much of the demo work, new interior framing and cosmetic work themselves to stay within budget. And the city has been able to complete the project without raising the sales tax, relying on a refinanced bond issue.



The city replaced the old mechanical “free fall” system with a string pin system, which is a big maintenance money saver.



Playland’s skating rink features a vintage spider light and disco balls to provide the proper ambiance. The city upgraded the light array with long-lasting, money-saving LED bulbs.

In addition to providing a unique amenity, the new city-run Playland accomplishes several positive things in Morrilton, Lipsmeyer says. “We’ve cleaned up an eyesore, we’ve created sales tax dollars that we lost for 13 years, we’ve created 25 jobs and we’ve created a place for families.” It’s also the kind of place where a new generation of kids will create memories for life. “If this isn’t a quality-of-life project then there isn’t one out there.”

Lipsmeyer encourages other city and town leaders to look for similar opportunities in their communities. It doesn’t have to be a bowling alley, he says, but something creative that keeps people and money in town. “What I want to sell out there is that other towns can do this. Don’t think you can’t do this for your community.” He invites other local officials to call him or come and tour Playland. “I would love to be able to think that I could help other towns do something like this, because this is huge for us.” 🍷



Playland also features an arcade with classic video games and pinball machines.



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

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# When state leaders fail, cities, towns and residents pay the price

By Jonas Anderson

Another Arkansas election season has come and gone, with myriad campaign ads, speeches and events across the state featuring candidates and their messages. This year, however, some of the messages seemed more worrisome than ever. For much of recent Arkansas history, our state leaders have not been wholly consumed with partisan politics. Yes, we've seen it from time to time, and for good reason on certain issues. But, generally speaking, most have put those things aside in favor of finding some common ground for the state and its people.

In this new rage-of-the-day, conspiracy driven era, the more bombastic, hateful and vindictive you are, the more support you seem to receive. This dangerous toxicity is spilling into our state at an alarming pace. Many elected officials seem obsessed with scoring political points against the "enemy" despite the cost. Arkansas' political campaigns are becoming more nationalized, with millions of dollars raised, on both sides, not to fix the problems of our residents, but to help wage national political battles.

Arkansas doesn't need leaders who are solely hell-bent on defeating an enemy in Washington D.C. Sure, national issues affect us all, and we must be engaged on that front. But we need leaders who are focused first on addressing issues right here at home. When they don't, our cities, towns and everyday Arkansans pay the price. Many mayors and city council members I know understand this and are hoping that our newly elected and returning state leaders will model and preserve this type of governance in our state.

The future of our communities is at stake. Let's be better, Arkansas.



*Jonas Anderson is the mayor of Cave Springs and the 2022-2023 League first vice president. A version of this "Letter to the Editor" previously appeared in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and the Batesville Daily Guard in October 2021.*

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# Reminder: Time to pass your budget

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



## Budgets in Mayor-Council Municipalities

### A.C.A. § 14-58-201. Annual submission.

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

### A.C.A. § 14-58-202. Adoption of budget.

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

### A.C.A. § 14-58-203. Appropriations and changes.

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

## Budgets in City Administrator-Director Municipalities

### A.C.A. § 14-48-117(6)

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

### A.C.A. § 14-48-122

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

## Budgets in City Manager-Director Municipalities

### A.C.A. § 14-47-120(6)

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

### A.C.A. § 14-47-140

- (a)(1) Any municipality organized and operating under the city manager form of government may authorize the mayor of the municipality to have the following

duties and powers if approved by the qualified electors of the municipality at an election called by the municipal board of directors by referendum or by the qualified electors of the municipality by initiative:

...

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

**A.C.A. § 14-47-125**

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

board for any specific purpose may be appropriated by subsequent action of the board to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:

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

A *Sample Resolution for the Adoption of the Municipal Budget* can be accessed via the Legal FAQs page at [www.arml.org/legal-faqs](http://www.arml.org/legal-faqs) for your convenience. Please call or email the League with any questions you may have. ☎

# NOTICE: Annexation reports due March 1

**A.C.A. §§ 14-40-2201 and 14-40-2202 provide:**

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

(2) The written notice shall include:

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

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

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

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

**A.C.A. § 14-40-2202. Inhabitants of annexed area**

(a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory

declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# State law governs first council meeting of the year

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

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



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# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

The Arkansas Municipal League 2023 Winter Conference will be a hybrid event—you may choose to attend in person or virtually. **Online registration for both options is available at [www.arml.org/reg](http://www.arml.org/reg).**

The 2023 Winter Conference will offer 5 core certification credit hours of City Government 101, as well as 3 continuing education hours, for participants of the League's Voluntary Certification Program. Learn more about the certification program at [arml.org/vcp](http://arml.org/vcp).

The 2023 Winter Conference will also focus on achieving civil public discourse at the local level, the upcoming 94th General Assembly, including the League's legislative priorities for the session, how to effectively communicate with your legislators and more.

## REGISTRATION PRICING & DEADLINES IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** for both In-Person and Virtual Attendees is **\$229** for municipal delegates and municipal personnel.
- Deadline for Early Bird Registration is **5 p.m. Thursday, December 15, 2022**.
- After **5 p.m. Thursday, December 15, 2022**, registration for both In-Person and Virtual Attendees will increase to **\$279** for municipal delegates and municipal personnel.
- Registration for guests is **\$125**.
- In-Person registration for non-members is **\$300**.
- You **must** register online at [arml.org/reg](http://arml.org/reg) with a credit card.
- Telephone registration will **not** be accepted.
- On-site registration is **not** available.
- Refunds will not be given for any attendee type after **5 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022**.
- The last day to change your attendee type (Virtual to In-Person, or vice versa) is **5 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022**.

Please contact Tricia Zello at [tzello@arml.org](mailto:tzello@arml.org) or 501-374-3484, ext. 285, with questions.



# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

Statehouse Convention Center | Little Rock | January 11-13, 2023

## RESERVATIONS

Please identify yourself as being with the Arkansas Municipal League to receive the reduced room rate listed below.

- Check in at 3 p.m.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to a 13-15% tax.
- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **Friday, December 30, 2022**.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- The last day to cancel hotel reservations without penalty is **5 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022**. Cancellations after this date will be charged for one night, plus applicable taxes and fees.

## ROOM RATES

**MARRIOTT HOTEL** (headquarters hotel)—~~\$149~~ **Sold Out**

877-759-6290

*Online:* <https://bit.ly/3c52T1u>

**CAPITAL HOTEL**—~~\$200~~ **Sold Out**

501-374-7474 or 501-370-7006

**DOUBLETREE HOTEL**—\$152

800-774-1500 or 501-508-8146

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# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## #2023AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Wednesday, January 11, 2023

|   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  | <b>ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS AND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION (ACCRTA) TRAINING</b>                    | TBD                        |
| <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. This session will not be recorded.</i>  |  |                            |
| 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.   | <b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b>  | Osage Room, SCC            |
| 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.   | <b>EXHIBIT HALL OPENS</b>  | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| 1:30 p.m.   | <b>MLWCP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING</b>   | TBD                        |
| 2:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.   | <b>INTRODUCTION OF THE VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM</b>   | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| *2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (1 hour of Level 1 Certification Credit)   | <b>CITY GOVERNMENT 101:<br/>WHAT IS THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND HOW DO WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS?</b> | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <i>The Arkansas Municipal League is a service and advocacy organization for the cities and towns of Arkansas, but what does that mean? This session will be your chance to learn about the "Big Five" League benefit programs: the Municipal Health Benefit Program (MHBP), the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program (MLWCP), The Municipal Vehicle Program and Municipal Property Program (MVP/MPP), and the Municipal Legal Defense Program (MLDP). The general managers will provide an overview of their programs and discuss how the League meets the needs of member municipalities of all sizes.</i> |  |                            |
| 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.   | <b>BREAK</b>   | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| <p>*City Government 101—Level 1 Certification Core Credit (5 hours offered)<br/> **Continuing Certification Credit (3 hours offered)<br/> MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center</p>   |  |                            |



# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## #2023AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Wednesday, January 11, 2023

**\*4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (1 hour of Level 1 Certification Credit)**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

**CITY GOVERNMENT 101: WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC ROLES OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL IN MAYOR-COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR FORMS OF GOVERNMENT?**

*Who is responsible for what within city hall? While the roles individuals play in local government can become confusing, municipal officials who are well-versed in the duties and responsibilities of their elected office can help create a city hall brimming with collaboration, productivity and progress. This session will prove to be of great value to veteran and newly elected officials alike. CLE credit pending.*

**5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.**

Governor's Hall I-III, SCC

**BREAK**

**5:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m.**

TBD

**STATE AID MAIN STREET PROGRAM UPDATE**

**\*\*5:45 p.m.-6:45 p.m. (1 hour of Continuing Certification Credit)**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

**GRANTS UPDATE**

*This hour-long session will benefit veteran and newly elected municipal officials and personnel alike. League staff will summarize ARPA Rescue Grant projects, announce new water, infrastructure and other grant opportunities, and discuss how you can participate in a couple of the National League of Cities' grant initiatives (Grants Boot Camp and Strong Southern Cities). Current Arkansas municipalities participating in NLC programs will discuss their experiences so you can consider taking part in the spring.*

**7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

Wally Allen Ballroom, SCC

**OPENING NIGHT BANQUET**

**8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**

Capital Hotel Mezzanine

**OPENING NIGHT DESSERT RECEPTION  
Sponsored by Stephens**

\*City Government 101—Level 1 Certification Core Credit (5 hours offered)

\*\*Continuing Certification Credit (3 hours offered)

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center



# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## #2023AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Thursday, January 12, 2023

|   |   |                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.   | <b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b>   | Osage Room, SCC            |
| 7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.   | <b>HOST CITY BREAKFAST</b>  | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| 7:15 a.m.-7:45 a.m.   | <b>VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION</b>   | TBD                        |
| 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.  | <b>OPENING GENERAL SESSION</b>  | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <p>Welcome to the Opening General Session of the 2023 Winter Conference. The Presentation of Colors, singing of the National Anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance will kick off our 2023 Winter Conference. Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. will provide the Host City Welcome, followed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Leila Brammer. Dr. Brammer will focus on free and open discourse in a public setting. Ensured in the First Amendment, free and open discourse is a hallmark of American democracy. In our present, heated political climate, municipal officials and personnel face numerous challenges to respond to, facilitate and mediate public discourse. We will examine current divisive discourse and provide municipal leaders with principles and practices to engage the public more productively and effectively.</p> |   |                            |
| 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.   | <b>BREAK</b>  | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| *10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (1 hour of Level 1 Certification Credit)   | <b>GENERAL SESSION II<br/>CITY GOVERNMENT 101: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)</b> | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <p>Signed into law by Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller in 1967, the Arkansas FOIA is one of the most stringent in the country, and municipal officials and personnel must understand the ins and outs of the law. League legal staff will discuss the importance and basics of the FOIA, including legislative intent, public meetings, public records, exemptions and more. CLE credit pending.</p>   |   |                            |
| <p>*City Government 101—Level 1 Certification Core Credit (5 hours offered)<br/>         **Continuing Certification Credit (3 hours offered)<br/>         MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center</p>   |   |                            |



# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## #2023AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Thursday, January 12, 2023

**11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

**ARKANSAS BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP TRENDSETTER CITY AND ENGAGE|AR COTY AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*Join us for lunch as the Arkansas Business Publishing Group recognizes the innovative and forward-thinking cities and towns receiving the 2022 Trendsetter City Award in multiple categories, including infrastructure and water, and education and workforce development.*

*Engage|AR does an outstanding job awarding to cities and towns the high distinction of being named a Volunteer Community of the Year. Cities and towns with this honored award have volunteers who gone above and beyond in making their city or town feel like a "Volunteer Community of the Year."*

**\*\*1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. (1 hour of Continuing Certification Credit)**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

**GENERAL SESSION III  
HOW TO ACCESS NEW SALES TAX INFORMATION FROM DF&A**

*This session offers an explanation and a walk-through of the DF&A website in relation to the additional sales tax information now available to municipalities. DF&A tax analyst Drew Smith will discuss the new information, how it can be accessed on their site and how the information can be best used in forecasting sales tax dollars for a municipality.*

**2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.**

Governor's Hall III, SCC

**BREAK**

**\*3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (1 hour of Level 1 Certification Credit)**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

**GENERAL SESSION IV  
HOW THE 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY AFFECT CITIES AND TOWNS OF ARKANSAS**

*League staff will review the legislative priorities for the 94th General Assembly and discuss potential legislation that could affect municipalities. The session will also include a review of the League's Be Local. Be Heard. initiative and the importance of local control, and how to build solid relationships with your local legislators. CLE credit pending.*

**5:00 p.m.**

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

\*City Government 101—Level 1 Certification Core Credit (5 hours offered)

\*\*Continuing Certification Credit (3 hours offered)

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center



# 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

## #2023AMLWC Tentative Agenda

### Friday, January 13, 2023

|   |   |                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m.-Noon  | <b>REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)</b>   | Osage Room, SCC            |
| 7:00 a.m.-Noon  | <b>EXHIBIT HALL OPENS</b>   | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| 7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.   | <b>BREAKFAST</b>  | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| *8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. (1 hour of Level 1 Certification Credit)   | <b>GENERAL SESSION I<br/>CITY GOVERNMENT 101: A DAY AT THE CAPITOL DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION</b> | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <i>What is a typical day like during the General Assembly, and where am I supposed to park? This session will answer those questions and many more as the League's Legislative Advocacy team walks us through everything you need to know to get around the capitol, what it's like to advocate for Arkansas' cities and towns, and how the legislative process works. CLE credit pending.</i>  |   |                            |
| 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.  | <b>BREAK</b>  | Governor's Hall I-III, SCC |
| **10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (1 hour of Continuing Certification Credit)   | <b>GENERAL SESSION II<br/>OPIOID UPDATES AND THE STATUS OF THE OPIOID LITIGATION</b>                  | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <i>Since the 88th Convention in June, much progress has been made not only in opioid funding but also in the hiring of an expert to lead the newly created Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) to ensure Arkansas' cities, towns and counties strategically use the funding to create holistic, successful opioid recovery centers for Arkansans suffering from opioid addictions.</i> |   |                            |
| 11:00 a.m.-Noon   | <b>POLYFLUROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS): WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW WIDESPREAD ARE THEY?</b>                   | Governor's Hall IV, SCC    |
| <i>Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large complex group of manufactured chemicals that are ingredients in various everyday products. During this session you will see a familiar face, Jerome Tapley of Cory Watson, explain the significance of PFAS and the way they impact municipal water systems. CLE credit pending.</i>  |   |                            |
| Noon-1:00 p.m.  | <b>LUNCH BUFFET</b>   | TBD                        |
| 1:00 p.m.   | <b>MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING</b>                                     | TBD                        |
| <i>The quarterly meeting of the MHBP's Board of Trustees will be held during this time.</i>   |   |                            |
| <p>*City Government 101—Level 1 Certification Core Credit (5 hours offered)<br/> **Continuing Certification Credit (3 hours offered)<br/> MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center</p>   |   |                            |





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With the new MHBP member portal, you can easily manage your healthcare and plan benefits online.

- **Mobile Access:** No app needed! Just log in from the browser on your mobile device and the portal will resize to fit your screen. Scan the QR code below to get started.
- **User-Friendly Design:** The engaging design makes it easier to navigate our portal and find claims, benefits and other important plan information.
- **Print ID Card:** Whether it's printing or showing your ID card from your phone, this feature will save you time and space in your wallet.
- **Email Us:** Save yourself a phone call and send us a message in our secure, HIPAA-compliant portal.

The MHBP member portal is your go-to for important benefit-related tasks and information, including:

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- Benefit Plan Details
- Prescription Info
- Explanations of Benefits
- Search for a Doctor

<https://mhbp.arml.org>

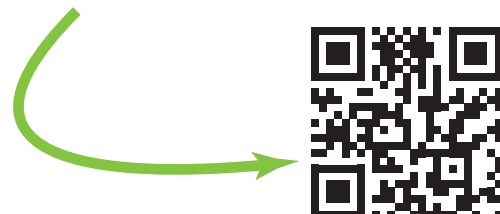
# Municipal Health Benefit Program Member Portal



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1. Go to <https://mhbp.arml.org>, or scan the QR code below with your phone to get started. Click "Create New Account" and select the "Member" option.
2. On the registration form, fill out your personal details as they appear on your ID card. The email address you use will also be your portal username.
3. Next, set your security questions, time zone and location settings.
4. Agree to the web confidentiality agreement for our portal.
5. At this point, you'll see a confirmation page and get a confirmation email with a link. Click the link to confirm and complete your registration. If you can't find this email, check your Junk folder.
6. Verify your username and answer your security questions.
7. Then, create your password using the password guidelines. Your registration is complete!

Use your phone's camera app to  
scan the QR code to get started!



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**Meet Steve Dixon, former mayor of Marmaduke and the League's new field representative.**

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



**Steve:** As a field rep I am working an area of 20 counties in northeast Arkansas. I am available to visit with the municipal leaders in this area to discuss issues they may be having in their cities and towns. I am out there promoting all the League services and just trying to help the mayors and city officials be better leaders. Sometimes they just need a person to sit down with in person and listen to their problems, instead of a phone call.

**As a former mayor, what inspired you to take this position with the League?** I felt that as the former mayor of Marmaduke—pop. 1,212—I would be able to relate to a lot of the issues the smaller town leaders would be experiencing. I had decided not to seek re-election, but I still wanted to be involved with the League and help the smaller towns. This was the golden opportunity to do both.

**What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service?** Don't take the criticism personally. The past 13 years of my life have been the most rewarding, vocationally. Public service is a lifestyle, not just a job. There are "givers" and "takers" in our society. A public servant is a giver. Be a giver.

**Where did you grow up? How has it changed? Stayed the same?** I grew up in Marmaduke and have lived here since I was 8 years old. There has never been a stoplight, but we are getting a roundabout. It is Smalltown, USA—five churches, post office and a Dollar General.

**What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why?** My favorite place is Dawn's Diner, my breakfast place almost five days per week. I refer to it as "The Learning Center." All who have a favorite local diner will know what that means.

**What is your favorite part about working for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas?** I have always enjoyed being part of the League since becoming a mayor back in 2009. This job allows me to continue to do that. Now I get to travel around the great state of Arkansas and listen to other city officials share not only their troubles and issues, but also their victories, which are many. Then I get to take those wins and losses and share them with other leaders. This makes us all better leaders of our cities and towns. 🍷

## Meet Jeff Harrison, director of public works for the city of Crossett.

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

**Jeff:** Basically, I supervise most all areas with the exception of police, fire and water. Anything from code enforcement and special events to drainage and wastewater, to name a few. My responsibility also includes special projects from the mayor.



**Why did you choose your profession? Did it choose you?** Kind of both. I was retired after 23 years of service with my previous employer and was working for myself at the time. I was reading the local paper and saw this job opportunity and decided to inquire about it, and it's been almost 19 years now.

**What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge?** My favorite aspect is finding an opportunity or area needing some type of improvement and making a plan and seeing it come to reality. Seeing the final product and having citizens make positive comments about it is gratifying.

**What's your favorite spot in Crossett?** My favorite spot is Lucas Pond. It's a vital part of our town. For some time it wasn't given the attention it once had and deserved. We took that as an opportunity to improve and our team has done a tremendous job there. I'm really proud of the results.

**What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job?** I think the public believes we have an unlimited amount of manpower and financial resources. This is for sure not the case. The reality is that the same individuals who pick up the trash every day and keep the wastewater system running are the same people who hang the Christmas lights and clean up after the rodeo parade. We have less than 100 employees and they do a wide variety of jobs.

**In what season does Crossett shine the most?** Christmas season, without a doubt, thanks to the citizen involvement and excitement that comes with light displays.

**What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government?** With my previous employer I had a lot of encounters with the public, so I had an idea already. The biggest thing is listening. Listen to people. Have genuine concern. If you're honest from the beginning people will trust you. Even if they don't get the answer they want, they will for the most part understand why you can or can't.

**What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job?** See previous answer.

**What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Crossett?** Wiggins Cabin, Yale Camp, Christmas light display and Crossett Rodeo. And Lucas Pond. Sorry, more than three! 🍷

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# Missed us?

You can download last month's issue or older issues of *City & Town* that you might have missed.

Help us keep you up to date and informed.



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

# Short-term rentals: Lingerin issue Number 1

By Jim von Tungeln

**A**s another year closes, some issues remain high on the list of urban planning concerns. This month we take a final look at perhaps the most nagging of current problems—the stubborn question of short-term rentals (STRs).

The year has seen efforts by some municipalities to address the impact of these on their communities. Others that previously seemed unconcerned about them are beginning to stir. No “bright-line” solution emerges. Approaches among cities and towns vary.

As for the public, that anonymous group that directs all plans for urban development, there is little guidance. The consistent response among citizens is that an STR would not be appropriate next door to their property but fine somewhere else.

Welcome to municipal government.

As a beginning step, some municipal leaders look into ways they might accommodate the STR industry while protecting the health, safety and welfare of permanent residents.

An alternative approach might be to address the health, safety and welfare of the community and then let the short-term rental industry adjust to *those* needs.

This novel approach requires planning and thought. First, any approach must withstand potential legal scrutiny, a test that is beyond the scope of this column. It is safe to assume, though, that a discernible nexus (logical and provable connection) between a solution and an identified issue of public concern must exist. A city or town should then be able to adopt any procedure in which it can show that it is addressing documented community issues.

Consider an actual case study. A (somewhat) hypothetical city in our state compiled an assessment of existing conditions.

First, extremely rough terrain limited the potential for future subdivision development.

Next, the existing utility system wasn’t sufficient for significant expansion of the housing stock.

Next, there was a documented market for housing by younger families wishing to locate in the city permanently, with more demand than supply and commuting options limited.



PHOTO COURTESY CRAFTON TULL

Permanent residents contribute to making the Argenta neighborhood of North Little Rock a state treasure.

Next, there was a documented need for workforce housing in the community.

Next, there were ample commercial motel and hotel accommodations in the city to serve external demand.

These factors led leaders to a decision that the loss of housing stock to the commercial enterprise of STRs was a demonstrable threat to the city’s wellbeing. Leaders banned them in residential zones entirely.

Between this solution and the “wide-open” policy of no restrictions are many solutions to the issue. Each solution should enjoy the same degree of analysis. There are cautions. Some of these include the following:

Is the solution enforceable? There are numerous points to consider. Some are obvious. If the municipality requires permits and adopts regulations, can the current staff process the permit applications and enforce the adopted regulations? How will the staff determine the location of units requiring enforcement? Software providers claim to have apps that pinpoint locations. Some cities and towns report finding problems with these. Another reports that staff must follow an assigned schedule to check permitted sites for compliance with adopted standards. Of course, this takes time away from other staff duties. Don’t forget that many STR violations

occur after business hours. This requires inspectors to work evenings and weekends to respond to complaints.

Answering inquiries from potential applicants wishing to operate a short-term rental as well as from individuals wishing to use one can, according to one city, require substantial staff time. Arguments arise with unusual regularity regarding a particular city's position as compared to those of other cities (all cheaper and more accommodating). Again, this takes time away from other staff duties.

After STRs are operating, does the municipality have resources available to handle the misuse of a permit? Stating that STRs are not to be used for parties or disruptive gatherings does not imply compliance. Neither do initial promises match long-term compliance. This means periodic reviews and inspections. Once more, this takes time away from other staff duties.

Proposed STR regulations must, as mentioned, pass legal review. City attorneys will likely ask if the regulations are fair. Do they treat property owners equally? Do they infringe upon the rights of protected categories of citizens? Do they restrict property rights, the subject of at least one legal case in our state? Finally, are they consistent with the state statutes governing planning, zoning and development? Do the regulations adequately define an STR and differentiate it from more conventional forms of property rental? Is there a clear process flowing from analysis to policy, to plan and, finally, to regulation and enforcement?

Finally, are perceived threats worth the effort and application of resources? The threat of blight probably isn't. Reports indicate that STR properties are well maintained, often the best in the vicinity. Tax revenue probably isn't going to offset the cost of implementing and collecting those taxes. Addressing competition with conventional hotels and motels is a tough goal for a municipality. Reports indicate that the owners of conventional outlets desire a "level playing field" more than the elimination of competition.

Other issues offer more substantial threats. Neighborhood stability represents a key concern. So does the provision of parking, along with the promise of safety to visitors. Accountability and responsibility weigh heavily. Peace and tranquility in neighborhood life are matters worth attending if it can be shown that STRs pose a greater threat than that found in existing neighborhoods.

Other factors represent important issues for municipal leaders. The first is the loss of housing stock for those wishing to reside permanently in the city. Some may be able to keep up with the demand. Others won't. There are reports from small, tourist-oriented communities in our state that the loss of permanent housing to STRs may even threaten the ability of the community to function as a city.

Then there is the purchase of shelter, whether under a lease or purchase arrangement. In addition to single-family dwellings, rental developments are being converted, in part or in whole, for STR use. Longtime residents are facing eviction. For renters, the economic principle of supply and demand will force rental prices to rise, even if other factors hold steady. In many cases, families seeking such shelter represent those among us most in need of affordable housing.

The purchase of a home also faces barriers. In the future, homebuyers will have to bid with private companies for the price. The long-term effects of this remain to be seen.

As a bonus, here are some thoughts from (anonymous) professional planners in our state:

"STR owners from Austin don't count for state turnback funds."

"Know exactly why you are requiring whatever. People will ask. And ask."

"Who will contact outlaw STRs? What will you do about it?"

"Clearly state the city's expected outcomes. For example, more visitors and fewer permanent residents."

Municipal leaders face choosing between those who wish to change neighborhoods into mini-motel sites or those who wish to "drop anchor" and live in the community. Regarding the issue of short-term rentals, a certified planner in one of our major cities stated it best:

"We need to reframe the conversation."

Next issue: some suggestions. In the meantime, happy new year. 🍷



*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).*

# LeadAR: Strengthening Arkansas communities since 1984

By Dr. Julie Robinson

For nearly 40 years, Arkansans from all walks of life have participated in the two-year LeadAR program to sharpen their skills, expand their worldview and put their hopes into action to aid their communities. LeadAR can be traced to a 1980 fact-finding trip by two University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service agents, J.B. Williams—state leader, community development—and Thomas Vaughns, horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. Along with representatives from 41 other states, they learned about a leadership training program initiated by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Impressed by what they heard, the two submitted a proposal, and the Foundation provided the original funding that would establish LeadAR. The program took root and Class 1 began its journey in March 1984.

LeadAR graduates are everywhere serving their communities in every conceivable way. They are educators, farmers, advocates, bankers, state legislators, lawyers, mayors, as well as quorum court, city council and school board members. Their influence spans industry, education, government, nonprofits and small businesses. In almost 40 years of training, the program has developed a tremendous legacy with more than 500 alumni who will influence the state's future for decades to come.

To address the gaps between rural and urban communities within the state, LeadAR recruits talented and passionate people eager to usher in positive change. Designed to broaden Arkansans' understanding of critical issues and opportunities facing our state, LeadAR strengthens participants' knowledge, skills and network by empowering them to impact communities and advocate for long-term economic development.

The LeadAR model employs an interdisciplinary approach to leadership development by championing the intersection of theory, practice and application. While exploring the major issues facing Arkansas communities is key to achieving lasting change, LeadAR recognizes this is not enough. Experts in subject matter, leadership theory, communication techniques, experiential learning and critical thinking are involved in LeadAR training. This knowledge equips participants with the tools necessary to catalyze change using strategies that are equitable, empowering and sustainable.



IMAGE COURTESY LEADAR

For nearly 40 years, LeadAR participants have traveled around the state, country and world to deepen their understanding of critical issues, policy impacts and best practices to become better citizens and leaders in their communities.

LeadAR is for Arkansans from rural and urban parts of our state who want to assume greater leadership responsibilities to better understand complex cultural, social and economic issues impacting us today and in the future. The results are legion: Participants improve their ability to interact and work with others; deepen their understanding of social, economic and political systems; and develop critical thinking and decision-making skills to become better citizens and leaders. One of the greatest values of the LeadAR experience is the

opportunity to connect to people and resources that can help them make a difference. “LeadAR for me was not a beginning nor was it a destination,” said Rep. David Hillman, who represents District 13 in the Arkansas House of Representatives and is a LeadAR Class 1 alumnus. “It was, however, an experience that opened a whole new world of possibilities.”

LeadAR is an intensive 18-month, hands-on program. Class members participate in seven multi-day seminars around the state that include tours, guest speakers and interactive activities. Video-conference sessions are hosted during alternating months when the class does not meet in person. Part of what makes LeadAR unique from other leadership development programs are the National Study Tour, International Study Tour and Leadership Service Project completion. Class members participate in the National Study Tour in the first year of the program, where they travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about issues and policymaking from a national perspective. At the end of the LeadAR program, participants travel outside the United States for the International Study Tour to learn how international issues and policy impact Arkansas and the U.S. Finally, participants are required to complete

a Leadership Service Project over the course of the 18-month program. The Leadership Service Project makes a positive difference in each community involved while providing an opportunity for participants to apply their newly acquired skills and newly made connections.

Applications for LeadAR Class 20 are now open. Applicants are required to apply online no later than February 24, 2023. All applicants will be required to participate in an interview. Applicants will be notified of Class 20 selection status by March 31, 2023.

Tuition for participating in LeadAR is \$3,500. Costs for tuition remain affordable through the support of the Arkansas Association of LeadAR Alumni, alumni contributions and our Eagle Sponsors: Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit and Arkansas Farm Bureau. All program information and the application can be found at [www.uaex.uada.edu/leadar](http://www.uaex.uada.edu/leadar). 🏠



*Dr. Julie Robinson is the director of LeadAR and associate professor in the Community, Professional, and Economic Development Department with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Reach out to Dr. Robinson at [jrobinson@uada.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uada.edu) or 501-671-2082.*



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# RSV surging early this season

By Morgan Horn, M.D.

**T**he availability of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments has given us the ability to once again attend in-person events and safely visit with the people we love. But this return to face-to-face interactions has also increased our exposure to pathogens that we didn't encounter while we were masked and socially distant. As a result, we've seen an early surge in seasonal illnesses after two winters of lower transmission.

One of these pathogens is respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. The virus usually presents with mild symptoms, but it can cause severe infection in children with weakened immune systems.

If you've seen the news reports about this year's rise in cases, you might be wondering what you can do to protect your children. Let's look at the symptoms of RSV and some ways we can reduce the chances of severe illness.

## Symptoms and severity

RSV spreads in the same way as most other respiratory viruses, through droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can survive for hours on surfaces such as doorknobs and tables, infecting people who come in contact with those objects and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

The virus is so prevalent and contagious that most people contract it by age 2. For most children, RSV results in cold-like symptoms, such as a cough, congested or runny nose, fever or sore throat. Symptoms usually last for a week or two.

In severe cases, however, the virus can make its way to the lower respiratory tract and cause significant health problems. These include pneumonia or inflammation in the small airways of the lungs, a condition known as bronchiolitis that is typically seen in infants and very young children.

You can contract RSV at any age and can have repeat infections, but symptoms tend to be less severe if you've previously been infected. That's why infants, especially those who are younger than 6 months or were born prematurely, are at greater risk for severe illness.

## Treating RSV

There's no treatment that will quickly clear up an RSV infection, but you can ease some of your child's symptoms and discomfort while the virus runs its

course. Over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen can lower a fever and reduce pain. Nasal saline drops and suctioning can help reduce nasal congestion.

You should also make sure your child drinks plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. Signs of dehydration in young children include dry mouth, sunken eyes and prolonged periods with dry diapers.

Take note of your child's symptoms and any changes in their condition. Most RSV cases don't require hospitalization, but you might need to seek medical care if your child experiences worsening symptoms, especially breathing difficulties or severe dehydration.

## Preventive measures

Practicing good hand hygiene is the best way to help slow the spread of RSV. Wash your hands often and help your children do the same. Avoid close contact with people who have cold-like symptoms. You should also disinfect surfaces that people frequently touch.

If your child has a greater chance of severe complications from RSV, including premature infants with chronic lung disease, those with specific types of congenital heart disease or those who are severely immunocompromised, then your pediatrician will recommend a monthly injection of palivizumab, a monoclonal antibody, during your child's first RSV season. Palivizumab boosts the body's immune response to RSV, significantly reducing the risk of severe illness. This drug is not a vaccine, and it won't prevent a child from contracting the virus. It also won't treat the symptoms of a person who is already sick.

Although we don't yet have an available vaccine that protects against RSV, there are some promising candidates in development. Pfizer recently announced positive results regarding its RSV vaccine, administered to mothers during pregnancy, after a clinical trial showed protection from severe illness in newborns in the first three months of life. Developments like this offer hope that we'll soon have new and effective ways to protect our most vulnerable loved ones. 🍷



*Morgan Horn, M.D., is an internist and pediatrician who practices at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Neighborhood Clinic on Rahling Road in Little Rock.*



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PHOTO COURTESY, ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION.

Make safety a priority during post-winter storm cleanup—wait for the ice to melt before clearing and pruning damaged limbs.

## Tree care before and after winter storms keeps canopy flourishing

By Alison Litchy

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

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

In most cases it is best to let nature take its course. Be gentle—you can do more harm than good knocking the ice off the limbs. Entire branches can break off if you

attempt to do it with the ice still on the tree. There is no hurry. Do not risk anyone's safety when doing yard work. Cleanup can be done later when the ice is gone and it is safer to work.

Some species react to winter storm events better than others. Trees with brittle wood, included bark or other poor growth patterns are at an increased risk of failure. Examples of trees that are prone to breakage are Bradford pear, Japanese zelkova, lacebark elm, silver maples and birches. Trees are often chosen based upon the speed with which they grow, but there is a trade-off. Typically, the faster the tree grows, the weaker the wood and branch angles are.

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

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

Treatment of the wound is not necessary. Paint and other topical treatments trap water inside, promoting rot and decay. Only prune what can be done safely. If in doubt, hire an arborist. Leave all hanging or broken limbs to a professional.

Depending on the storm the tree may need restoration pruning. This is a pruning technique used when trees have been damaged in a storm or by misguided pruning efforts. Restoring a tree to its natural structure can require several prunings over many years. Removing too much of the crown at one time, especially on a tree

that has just been severely damaged, will remove the resources such as water and nutrients that the tree needs to survive. After the event, the tree will have many new shoots and over time those new shoots need to be removed and a new leader selected.

When hiring an arborist after a large storm event it is important to check their credentials at [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org). Also check to make sure they have insurance. Feel free to ask for a reference and for examples of their past work. Beware of “fly by night” tree service companies that come in after an event and don’t have skills, knowledge or insurance.

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

*A version of this column previously appeared in the December 2017 issue of City & Town.*



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# Assess site early, avoid headaches later

By David Hubbard

**G**eotechnical reports are very important to the overall design and budgeting process of civil engineering projects. They provide recommendations for subgrade suitability and stability, pavements, foundations and other project elements. In most cases, the scope and design of a project are far enough along so that a geotechnical report is the proper approach to help provide the recommendations needed for the construction phase of the project.

What if a project is in the preliminary phase of design, or if there is just an idea for a project sketched on the back of a napkin? Maybe you need help in deciding if the potential project site is suitable for the needs of the project or if it will be economically feasible. This is where a preliminary site assessment can come in handy.

Preliminary site assessments follow the same procedures for on-site operations as geotechnical reports but are scaled back. Borings will be conducted over a larger area as opposed to targeting specific development areas, as usually done for a geotechnical report. This allows for more general site specifics and preliminary information to be obtained to assist the client in the early stages of design. It can also assist in property purchasing, budgeting, funding applications and finalizing the scope of the project.

Performing a preliminary site assessment early in the design process can also help avoid issues that might come up later. For example, site assessments can help determine preliminary site preparation and grading recommendations to adequately budget potential undercut and replacement with select fill for a site.

When performing a preliminary site assessment, we are looking to determine basic site conditions. For example, what is the condition of the subgrade soils? What type of soils are there, and what kind of remediation factors are needed to get the project site to a condition in which development can occur?

We have seen it time and time again—a developer has to abandon the project site or change the project scope based on the findings of a preliminary site assessment that reveal a previously unknown detention pond, improperly filled-in excavation areas, existing building and foundation elements or old landfills. Just because a site is filled, leveled and looks building-ready does not always mean that the site is in the proper condition to start developing on it.



PHOTO COURTESY MCE

Workers use a drill rig to take soil samples at a potential build site as part of a preliminary site assessment.

The time of the year can also be an important factor in deciding whether a site assessment or a final geotechnical report is more appropriate. It is a good and safe practice to always investigate soil conditions at the time of construction. During wet seasons of the year—generally October through May—soil conditions may be unfavorable and it can be harder to determine adequate recommendations. This can affect the project's budgeting and design and generally cause headaches.

To further discuss the benefits of either a preliminary site assessment or final geotechnical report or help determine what is the best course of action for your project, please feel free to contact me at any time. 📞



*David Hubbard is a project designer in MCE's Construction Related Services Department in our Little Rock office. Contact David by phone at 501-371-0272 or email him at [dhubbard@mce.us.com](mailto:dhubbard@mce.us.com).*

Monday 8:34 am



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# 2021/2022 State Turnback Funds

| Actual Totals Per Capita |                 |                 |                |                |                 |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                          | STREET          |                 | SEVERANCE TAX  |                | GENERAL         |                 |
| MONTH                    | 2021            | 2022            | 2021           | 2022           | 2021            | 2022            |
| January                  | \$6.659         | \$6.744         | \$0.071        | \$0.485        | \$1.951         | \$1.961         |
| February                 | \$6.607         | \$6.648         | \$0.163        | \$0.486        | \$0.893         | \$0.964         |
| March                    | \$5.693         | \$5.544         | \$0.110        | \$0.411        | \$0.892         | \$0.964         |
| April                    | \$6.135         | \$6.689         | \$0.162        | \$0.314        | \$0.889         | \$0.964         |
| May                      | \$7.568         | \$6.636         | \$0.258        | \$0.433        | \$0.890         | \$0.964         |
| June                     | \$6.753         | \$6.504         | \$0.206        | \$0.363        | \$1.665         | \$0.963         |
| July                     | \$7.303         | \$7.289         | \$0.163        | \$0.407        | \$4.306         | \$3.463         |
| August                   | \$6.988         | \$7.021         | \$0.150        | \$0.558        | \$0.854         | \$0.807         |
| September                | \$6.822         | \$7.212         | \$0.205        | \$0.639        | \$1.020         | \$0.963         |
| October                  | \$6.597         | \$6.791         | \$0.295        | \$0.553        | \$0.964         | \$0.964         |
| November                 | \$6.306         | \$6.509         | \$0.285        | \$0.749        | \$0.964         | \$0.96          |
| December                 | \$6.12          |                 | \$0.374        |                | \$0.96          |                 |
| <b>Total Year</b>        | <b>\$79.549</b> | <b>\$73.588</b> | <b>\$2.443</b> | <b>\$5.399</b> | <b>\$16.250</b> | <b>\$13.940</b> |

| Actual Totals Per Month |                         |                         |                       |                        |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                         | STREET                  |                         | SEVERANCE TAX         |                        | GENERAL                |                        |
| MONTH                   | 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         | \$13,330,126.26         | \$308,183.56          | \$974,949.61           | \$1,688,281.84         | \$1,932,029.37         |
| March                   | \$10,760,836.82         | \$11,116,392.03         | \$207,709.60          | \$824,985.57           | \$1,685,424.74         | \$1,932,175.48         |
| April                   | \$11,627,333.33         | \$13,413,142.61         | \$307,147.46          | \$629,375.82           | \$1,684,913.88         | \$1,932,175.48         |
| May                     | \$14,343,742.05         | \$13,306,592.12         | \$489,324.42          | \$868,435.30           | \$1,687,137.50         | \$1,933,337.16         |
| June                    | \$12,799,319.93         | \$13,042,397.16         | \$390,405.22          | \$728,488.74           | \$3,154,867.86         | \$1,930,396.00         |
| July                    | \$13,841,564.30         | \$14,616,346.04         | \$309,031.02          | \$816,970.67           | ** \$8,160,945.43      | *** \$6,944,783.81     |
| August                  | \$13,245,023.56         | \$14,078,419.61         | \$285,053.21          | \$1,119,657.38         | \$1,617,878.89         | \$1,619,187.98         |
| September               | \$12,929,805.85         | \$14,460,958.73         | \$389,181.65          | \$1,280,885.52         | \$1,932,348.55         | \$1,931,889.90         |
| October                 | \$13,228,061.49         | \$13,617,712.35         | \$592,445.41          | \$1,108,417.65         | \$1,933,129.73         | \$1,932,525.04         |
| November                | \$12,644,574.33         | \$13,058,733.21         | \$571,049.30          | \$1,502,715.99         | \$1,932,763.61         | \$1,931,894.66         |
| December                | \$12,272,528.63         |                         | \$749,777.69          |                        | \$1,933,129.71         |                        |
| <b>Total Year</b>       | <b>\$152,769,164.95</b> | <b>\$147,564,192.07</b> | <b>\$4,733,956.43</b> | <b>\$10,826,533.02</b> | <b>\$31,099,286.06</b> | <b>\$27,953,439.68</b> |

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

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

\*\*\*Includes \$3,514,811.45 supplemental for July 2022

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



**2022 Sales Tax Elections**  
**NORTH LITTLE ROCK, August 9**  
 Passed. 0.5%

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer See also: [www.dfa.arkansas.gov](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov)

| Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 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   | \$90,989,478         | \$79,611,239         | \$75,394,289         | \$68,300,663         | \$166,383,767          | \$147,911,902          | \$20,291           | \$20,412         |
| March  | \$71,237,219         | \$66,877,931         | \$60,990,849         | \$57,918,592         | \$132,228,069          | \$124,796,523          | \$13,414           | \$13,492         |
| April  | \$70,722,847         | \$60,600,707         | \$61,123,066         | \$53,282,134         | \$131,845,913          | \$113,882,841          | \$23,045           | \$16,537         |
| May  | \$85,621,568         | \$83,488,059         | \$73,394,919         | \$73,792,913         | \$159,016,487          | \$157,280,972          | \$45,685           | \$10,492         |
| June   | \$79,693,712         | \$78,858,097         | \$68,198,650         | \$67,860,902         | \$147,892,362          | \$146,718,999          | \$66,577           | \$9,681          |
| July   | \$82,774,267         | \$76,784,978         | \$69,831,518         | \$65,778,959         | \$152,605,785          | \$142,563,936          | \$100,880          | \$12,566         |
| August   | \$84,835,673         | \$78,501,622         | \$72,760,141         | \$67,970,242         | \$157,595,815          | \$146,471,864          | \$133,556          | \$9,395          |
| September  | \$83,485,245         | \$77,398,158         | \$72,292,734         | \$65,883,715         | \$155,777,979          | \$143,281,872          | \$262,246          | \$13,951         |
| October  | \$84,245,742         | \$77,705,438         | \$72,984,249         | \$66,726,221         | \$157,229,991          | \$144,431,660          | \$283,743          | \$11,344         |
| November   | \$80,956,997         | \$76,869,137         | \$70,372,855         | \$65,831,542         | \$151,329,852          | \$142,700,679          | \$299,643          | \$8,299          |
| December   |                      | \$76,860,225         |                      | \$65,183,723         |                        | \$142,043,948          |                    | \$9,939          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$894,071,940</b> | <b>\$901,755,580</b> | <b>\$764,579,018</b> | <b>\$778,256,518</b> | <b>\$1,658,650,958</b> | <b>\$1,680,012,098</b> | <b>\$1,257,077</b> | <b>\$150,710</b> |
| Averages   | \$81,279,267         | \$75,146,298         | \$69,507,183         | \$64,854,710         | \$150,786,451          | \$140,001,008          | \$114,280          | \$12,559         |





|                    |              |              |                     |            |            |                    |              |              |                    |              |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bay                | 41,326.04    | 37,973.95    | Tollette            | 4,024.16   | 3,771.41   | Mississippi County | 1,584,090.35 | 1,190,382.37 | Mansfield          | 9,887.06     | 8,579.30     |
| Black Oak          | 5,132.71     | 4,716.38     | Independence County | 671,214.73 | 648,522.23 | Bassett            | 2,866.23     | 2,153.86     | Waldron            | 39,548.24    | 34,317.22    |
| Bono               | 53,067.40    | 48,762.93    | Batesville          | 197,107.35 | 190,443.53 | Birdsong           | 739.67       | 555.84       | Searcy County      | 99,871.89    | 100,944.91   |
| Brookland          | 89,525.07    | 82,263.40    | Cave City           | 3,205.57   | 3,097.20   | Blytheville        | 309,876.70   | 232,860.31   | Gilbert            | 2,652.29     | 2,681.14     |
| Caraway            | 24,958.64    | 22,934.16    | Cushman             | 7,626.44   | 7,368.60   | Burdette           | 3,236.07     | 2,431.78     | Leslie             | 3,826.31     | 3,867.42     |
| Cash               | 6,168.07     | 5,667.75     | Magness             | 3,874.87   | 3,743.86   | Dell               | 4,484.27     | 3,369.75     | Marshall           | 13,560.46    | 13,706.15    |
| Egypt              | 2,489.26     | 2,287.34     | Moorefield          | 2,219.24   | 2,144.21   | Dyess              | 7,835.91     | 5,888.38     | Pindall            | 969.33       | 979.75       |
| Jonesboro          | 1,730,935.59 | 1,590,533.74 | Newark              | 20,783.37  | 20,080.72  | Etowah             | 5,871.15     | 4,411.94     | St. Joe            | 1,316.25     | 1,330.40     |
| Lake City          | 51,239.01    | 47,082.84    | Oil Trough          | 3,980.54   | 3,845.97   | Gosnell            | 67,264.00    | 50,546.28    | Sebastian County   | 407,094.32   | 1,012,867.32 |
| Monette            | 33,175.38    | 30,484.44    | Pleasant Plains     | 6,199.78   | 5,990.18   | Joiner             | 11,511.16    | 8,650.19     | Barling            | 107,098.26   | 96,625.68    |
| Crawford County    | 601,386.42   | 551,700.74   | Southside           | 75,366.13  | 72,818.14  | Keiser             | 17,359.20    | 13,044.76    | Bonanza            | 13,146.52    | 11,860.99    |
| Alma               | 86,331.03    | 79,198.49    | Sulphur Rock        | 10,726.33  | 10,363.70  | Leachville         | 47,131.03    | 35,417.14    | Central City       | 10,324.61    | 9,315.02     |
| Cedarville         | 21,104.79    | 19,361.14    | Izard County        | 67,522.38  | 61,579.04  | Luxora             | 21,774.12    | 16,362.41    | Fort Smith         | 1,996,435.12 | 1,801,214.26 |
| Chester            | 2,134.19     | 1,957.87     | Jackson County      | 334,673.99 | 328,711.31 | Manila             | 85,108.61    | 63,955.81    | Greenwood          | 213,121.50   | 192,281.47   |
| Dyer               | 11,441.64    | 10,496.35    | Amagon              | 921.24     | 904.83     | Marie              | 2,496.40     | 1,875.94     | Hackett            | 17,558.56    | 15,841.60    |
| Kibler             | 14,894.88    | 13,664.29    | Beedeville          | 1,121.51   | 1,101.53   | Osceola            | 161,248.69   | 121,172.12   | Hartford           | 11,175.66    | 10,082.86    |
| Mountainburg       | 7,825.37     | 7,178.85     | Campbell Station    | 3,097.50   | 3,042.32   | Victoria           | 462.30       | 347.40       | Huntington         | 10,974.10    | 9,901.00     |
| Mulberry           | 22,868.46    | 20,979.10    | Diaz                | 16,342.01  | 16,050.85  | Wilson             | 17,705.91    | 13,305.32    | Lavaca             | 54,870.50    | 49,505.00    |
| Rudy               | 1,926.70     | 1,767.52     | Grubbs              | 4,018.74   | 3,947.15   | Monroe County      | NA           | NA           | Mansfield          | 15,318.95    | 13,820.99    |
| Van Buren          | 344,108.83   | 315,679.05   | Jacksonport         | 2,002.70   | 1,967.02   | Montgomery County  | 252,523.00   | 254,356.15   | Midland            | 5,083.92     | 4,586.79     |
| Crittenden County  | 1,074,879.95 | 957,835.07   | Newport             | 106,877.25 | 104,973.08 | Black Springs      | 1,017.94     | 1,025.33     | Sevier County      | 593,932.21   | 570,164.90   |
| Anthonyville       | 1,360.10     | 1,212.00     | Swifton             | 9,786.51   | 9,612.15   | Glenwood           | 657.42       | 662.19       | Ben Lomond         | 1,999.73     | 1,919.71     |
| Clarkedale         | 3,385.15     | 3,016.53     | Tuckerman           | 22,790.69  | 22,384.64  | Mount Ida          | 10,561.11    | 10,637.78    | De Queen           | 87,202.50    | 83,712.92    |
| Crawfordsville     | 4,654.58     | 4,147.74     | Tupelo              | 934.59     | 917.94     | Norman             | 3,212.87     | 3,236.19     | Gillham            | 2,242.55     | 2,152.81     |
| Earle              | 18,447.04    | 16,438.32    | Weldon              | 761.03     | 747.46     | Oden               | 1,908.64     | 1,922.49     | Horatio            | 13,141.08    | 12,615.22    |
| Edmondson          | 2,448.19     | 2,181.60     | Jefferson County    | 512,628.87 | 489,842.76 | Nevada County      | 134,954.47   | 125,678.42   | Lockesburg         | 8,484.57     | 8,145.04     |
| Gilmore            | 1,595.85     | 1,422.08     | Altheimer           | 10,313.93  | 9,855.48   | Bluff City         | 1,285.28     | 1,196.94     | Sharp County       | 324,647.86   | 294,847.80   |
| Horseshoe Lake     | 2,659.76     | 2,370.13     | Humphrey            | 3,171.24   | 3,030.28   | Bodcaw             | 1,317.96     | 1,227.37     | Ash Flat           | 15,741.06    | 14,296.16    |
| Jennette           | 1,069.95     | 953.44       | Pine Bluff          | 611,322.48 | 584,149.48 | Cale               | 795.13       | 740.48       | Cave City          | 26,747.51    | 24,292.30    |
| Jericho            | 987.33       | 879.82       | Redfield            | 22,302.39  | 21,311.06  | Emmet              | 4,324.21     | 4,026.98     | Cherokee Village   | 60,673.80    | 55,104.43    |
| Marion             | 138,549.24   | 123,462.46   | Sherrill            | 785.40     | 750.49     | Prescott           | 33,776.74    | 31,455.11    | Evening Shade      | 6,456.29     | 5,863.66     |
| Sunset             | 1,668.39     | 1,486.72     | Wabbaseka           | 2,667.40   | 2,548.83   | Rosston            | 2,962.68     | 2,759.04     | Hardy              | 10,883.47    | 9,884.45     |
| Turrell            | 4,687.82     | 4,177.36     | White Hall          | 82,704.05  | 79,027.90  | Willisville        | 1,612.05     | 1,501.24     | Highland           | 15,095.43    | 13,709.79    |
| West Memphis       | 247,035.16   | 220,135.23   | Johnson County      | 167,983.79 | 150,962.77 | Newtown County     | 51,986.87    | 54,053.39    | Horseshoe Bend     | 199.84       | 181.49       |
| Cross County       | 632,215.46   | 603,160.51   | Clarksville         | 124,544.05 | 111,924.58 | Jasper             | 4,496.65     | 4,675.40     | Sidney             | 2,951.45     | 2,680.53     |
| Cherry Valley      | 8,956.44     | 8,544.82     | Coal Hill           | 10,886.49  | 9,783.41   | Western Grove      | 2,910.08     | 3,025.76     | Williford          | 1,214.40     | 1,102.94     |
| Hickory Ridge      | 3,551.42     | 3,388.21     | Hartman             | 6,850.52   | 6,156.39   | Ouachita County    | 603,920.72   | 547,950.95   | St. Francis County | 494,910.47   | 458,574.12   |
| Parkin             | 12,367.67    | 11,799.29    | Knoxville           | 8,762.29   | 7,874.45   | Bearden            | 10,832.41    | 9,828.49     | Caldwell           | 12,356.32    | 11,449.12    |
| Wynne              | 129,502.31   | 123,550.72   | Lamar               | 22,821.79  | 20,509.36  | Camden             | 148,135.98   | 134,407.12   | Colt               | 8,027.50     | 7,438.12     |
| Dallas County      | 184,150.65   | 182,357.87   | Lafayette County    | 112,803.11 | 110,952.14 | Chidester          | 3,531.70     | 3,204.39     | Forrest City       | 356,579.94   | 330,399.80   |
| Desha County       | 161,490.54   | 142,854.59   | Bradley             | 3,989.98   | 3,924.51   | East Camden        | 11,139.51    | 10,107.13    | Hughes             | 28,931.88    | 26,807.70    |
| Arkansas City      | 7,381.08     | 6,529.30     | Buckner             | 1,625.55   | 1,598.87   | Louann             | 2,135.77     | 1,937.83     | Madison            | 20,794.78    | 19,268.04    |
| Dumas              | 78,541.74    | 69,478.05    | Lewisville          | 9,014.40   | 8,866.48   | Stephens           | 10,748.65    | 9,752.50     | Paletine           | 13,863.20    | 12,845.36    |
| McGehee            | 75,557.90    | 66,838.55    | Stamps              | 12,393.56  | 12,190.21  | Perry County       | 202,646.28   | 182,815.21   | Wheatley           | 7,643.94     | 7,082.72     |
| Mitchellville      | 5,751.74     | 5,088.00     | Lawrence County     | 475,562.30 | 422,117.94 | Adona              | 1,203.09     | 1,085.36     | Whedner            | 5,808.28     | 5,381.84     |
| Reed               | 2,551.97     | 2,257.47     | Alicia              | 1,521.78   | 1,350.76   | Bigelow            | 2,842.20     | 2,564.06     | Stone County       | 222,505.64   | 198,370.94   |
| Tillar             | 628.18       | 555.69       | Black Rock          | 6,278.68   | 5,573.08   | Casa               | 968.93       | 874.11       | Fifty Six          | 2,267.61     | 2,021.65     |
| Watson             | 3,631.65     | 3,212.56     | Hoxie               | 27,647.49  | 24,540.42  | Fourche            | 452.17       | 407.92       | Mountain View      | 41,290.59    | 36,811.90    |
| Drew County        | 535,882.95   | 491,028.12   | Imboden             | 6,810.77   | 6,045.37   | Houston            | 1,154.65     | 1,041.65     | Union County       | 632,307.19   | 609,570.13   |
| Jerome             | NA           | 394.14       | Lynn                | 2,745.59   | 2,437.04   | Perry              | 2,115.50     | 1,908.48     | Calion             | 17,464.05    | 16,836.07    |
| Monticello         | 151,182.98   | 138,639.75   | Minturn             | 925.84     | 821.79     | Perryville         | 11,086.21    | 10,001.31    | El Dorado          | 774,234.41   | 746,393.83   |
| Tillar             | 2,507.18     | 2,299.17     | Portia              | 4,512.14   | 4,005.06   | Phillips County    | 221,313.91   | 209,019.72   | Felsenthal         | 3,317.66     | 3,198.36     |
| Wilmar             | 7,073.83     | 6,486.93     | Powhatan            | 1,106.75   | 982.37     | Elaine             | 11,072.04    | 10,456.98    | Huttig             | 22,616.73    | 21,803.47    |
| Winchester         | 2,453.45     | 2,249.91     | Ravenden            | 4,533.42   | 4,023.95   | Helena-West Helena | 209,287.15   | 197,661.05   | Junction City      | 21,352.35    | 20,584.53    |
| Faulkner County    | 1,126,133.02 | 1,005,782.31 | Sedgwick            | 1,734.62   | 1,539.68   | Lake View          | 7,315.68     | 6,909.30     | Norphlet           | 27,496.21    | 26,507.48    |
| Enola              | 2,957.37     | 2,641.31     | Smithville          | 925.84     | 821.79     | Lexa               | 4,657.07     | 4,398.35     | Smackover          | 71,284.41    | 68,721.11    |
| Holland            | 5,449.74     | 4,867.32     | Strawberry          | 2,852.01   | 2,531.50   | Marvell            | 19,297.39    | 18,225.40    | Strong             | 18,666.33    | 17,995.11    |
| Mount Vernon       | 1,339.18     | 1,196.06     | Walnut Ridge        | 57,295.65  | 50,856.68  | Pike County        | 250,474.32   | 218,189.16   | Van Buren County   | 298,410.06   | 268,353.14   |
| Twin Groves        | 2,948.07     | 2,633.00     | Lee County          | 49,173.87  | 46,305.17  | Antoine            | 1,730.90     | 1,507.79     | Clinton            | 39,941.90    | 35,918.81    |
| Wooster            | 9,690.48     | 8,654.86     | Aubrey              | 1,206.17   | 1,135.81   | Daisy              | 1,347.95     | 1,174.21     | Damascus           | 3,900.26     | 3,507.42     |
| Franklin County    | 346,858.13   | 317,102.04   | Haynes              | 1,262.53   | 1,283.04   | Deight             | 4,411.49     | 3,842.86     | Fairfield Bay      | 30,995.17    | 27,873.22    |
| Altus              | 10,044.10    | 9,182.44     | LaGrange            | 580.75     | 546.87     | Glenwood           | 30,727.22    | 26,766.60    | Shirley            | 3,948.02     | 3,550.36     |
| Branch             | 4,470.76     | 4,087.23     | Marianna            | 39,926.55  | 37,597.32  | Murfreesboro       | 22,899.90    | 19,949.19    | Washington County  | 2,189,101.59 | 1,957,073.76 |
| Charleston         | 39,088.95    | 35,735.99    | Moro                | 1,976.78   | 1,861.46   | Poinsett County    | 352,676.80   | 310,477.27   | Elkins             | 77,332.06    | 69,135.46    |
| Denning            | 4,363.35     | 3,989.03     | Rondo               | 1,820.43   | 1,714.23   | Fisher             | 2,542.96     | 2,238.68     | Elm Springs        | 40,705.60    | 36,391.12    |
| Ozark              | 53,498.08    | 48,908.61    | Lincoln County      | 169,104.43 | 165,083.05 | Harrisburg         | 31,250.16    | 27,510.92    | Farmington         | 162,822.41   | 145,564.50   |
| Wiederkehr Village | 755.20       | 690.41       | Gould               | 4,930.14   | 4,812.90   | Lepanto            | 24,468.93    | 21,541.10    | Fayetteville       | 2,017,009.85 | 1,803,222.41 |
| Fulton County      | 306,853.28   | 267,599.72   | Grady               | 2,268.01   | 2,214.08   | Marked Tree        | 32,295.60    | 28,431.27    | Goshen             | 45,128.26    | 40,345.01    |
| Ash Flat           | 865.47       | 754.76       | Star City           | 16,158.65  | 15,774.39  | Trumann            | 104,529.80   | 92,022.29    | Greenland          | 26,042.14    | 23,281.87    |
| Cherokee Village   | 6,380.00     | 5,563.85     | Little River County | 360,758.29 | 387,036.62 | Tyronna            | 10,115.33    | 8,904.98     | Johnson            | 77,482.34    | 69,269.81    |
| Hardy              | 268.07       | 233.78       | Ashdown             | 53,369.60  | 57,257.14  | Waldenburg         | 748.76       | 659.17       | Lincoln            | 49,250.34    | 44,030.19    |
| Horseshoe Bend     | 84.25        | 73.47        | Foreman             | 12,337.06  | 13,128.43  | Weiner             | 9,140.52     | 8,046.81     | Prairie Grove      | 151,250.51   | 135,219.13   |
| Mammoth Spring     | 7,115.27     | 6,205.06     | Ogden               | 1,640.79   | 1,760.31   | Polk County        | 365,198.65   | 334,090.83   | Springdale         | 1,611,971.93 | 1,441,115.38 |
| Salem              | 11,994.09    | 10,459.77    | Wilton              | 3,594.71   | 3,856.56   | Cove               | 9,940.14     | 9,093.42     | Tontitown          | 92,339.03    | 82,551.81    |
| Viola              | 2,741.94     | 2,391.18     | Winthrop            | 1,452.91   | 1,558.74   | Granis             | 15,455.50    | 14,139.00    | West Fork          | 50,044.70    | 44,740.35    |
| Garland County     | 2,420,430.57 | 2,272,280.69 | Logan County        | 400,876.52 | 381,028.21 | Hatfield           | 10,750.30    | 9,834.58     | Winslow            | 7,836.27     | 7,005.68     |
| Fountain Lake      | 15,593.37    | 8,533.22     | Blue Mountain       | 1,056.08   | 1,003.79   | Mena               | 174,154.88   | 159,320.28   | White County       | 1,496,432.97 | 1,443,261.45 |
| Hot Springs        | 830,114.53   | 292,028.65   | Booneville          | 45,711.25  | 43,447.99  | Vandervoort        | 3,583.44     | 3,278.20     | Bald Knob          | 40,469.94    | 39,301.95    |
| Lonsdale           | 3,381.29     | 1,850.36     | Caulksville         | 1,848.13   | 1,756.63   | Wicks              | 18,949.10    | 18,158.36    | Beebe              | 135,386.55   | 130,575.97   |
| Mountain Pine      | 19,204.48    | 10,509.34    | Magazine            | 8,880.63   | 8,440.93   | Pope County        | 496,124.65   | 470,131.70   | Bradford           | 10,879.71    | 10,493.13    |
| Grant County       | 296,459.78   | 284,176.21   | Morrison Bluff      | 936.07     | 889.72     | Atkins             | 55,067.18    | 52,182.10    | Garner             | 3,385.87     | 3,265.56     |
| Greene County      | 470,060.00   | 410,791.74   | Paris               | 38,114.71  | 36,227.57  | Dover              | 25,751.95    | 24,402.75    | Georgetown         | 1,299.79     | 1,253.60     |
| Delaplaine         | 984.68       | 860.52       | Ratcliff            | 2,004.14   | 1,904.91   | Hector             | 7,916.27     | 7,501.52     | Griffithville      | 2,487.25     | 2,398.87     |
| Lafe               | 6,431.17     | 5,620.29     | Scranton            | 2,940.21   | 2,794.63   | London             | 18,028.29    | 17,083.75    | Higginson          | 11,312.97    | 10,910.99    |
| Marmaduke          | 18,647.31    | 16,296.14    | Subiaco             | 4,812.35   | 4,574.07   | Pottsville         | 60,479.52    | 57,310.88    | Judsonia           | 29,570.70    | 28,693.59    |
| Oak Grove Heights  | 16,985.67    | 14,844.01    | Lonoke County       | 835,500.70 | 380,827.83 | Russellville       | 557,413.12   | 528,209.16   | Kensett            | 22,465.47    | 21,667.22    |
| Paragould          | 454,443.64   | 397,144.40   | Allport             | 1,096.05   | 1,147.19   | Prairie County     |              |              |                    |              |              |

# 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.

**CITY MANAGER**—The city of Bristol, Tennessee, is seeking a skilled and engaging servant leader with the knowledge and experience to guide the organization into the future. Candidates should be relationship builders and strong communicators with a firm grasp of economic development, budgeting, and financial management. Experience with a growing community will be particularly valuable, and the right fit will understand how to work collaboratively with elected leaders, staff and stakeholders throughout the community to set ambitious goals and achieve them. Candidates should be well rounded in all other aspects of local government management in a full-service city, including water, sewer, finance, parks and recreation, public safety, etc. This position requires a master's degree in public or business administration as well as six to nine years of public management and progressive experience, preferably within local government. Any equivalent combination of education, training and experience that provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this position may be considered. The ICMA Credentialed Manager certification (ICMA-CM) is preferred but not required. Please note that the successful candidate will need to establish residency within the Bristol city limits. Salary range: \$130,660 to \$209,056 DOQE. For more information or to apply for this position, contact Kurt Hodgen at [Kurthodgen@GovernmentResource.com](mailto:Kurthodgen@GovernmentResource.com), 540-820-0531.

**CITY MANAGER**—The city of Hope seeks applicants for the position of city manager to plan and manage all operations of the city in accordance with policies set by the City of Hope Board of Directors. Essential job functions: provides direct oversight of all departments, including the appointment and removal of employees and other personnel actions; establishes personnel policies and procedure guidelines for city operations; and in collaboration with the mayor and board of directors, creates and leads the implementation of goals and objectives for the city. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, or a related field and at least 5 years' experience of progressively responsible executive municipal work or as a private executive officer in an organization of comparable complexity. Salary: \$100,000-115,000. For a complete job description and to apply, please email Heather. Buster at [ExpressPros.com](mailto:ExpressPros.com).

**CITY MANAGER**—The city of Tifton, Georgia, is seeking applications for a new city manager. Tifton is the county seat of Tift County with an estimated population of 17,000. It is the home of several major educational institutions, a regional medical center, and serves as a center of commerce for the region. The position of city manager is appointed by the mayor and council and is responsible for directing the daily operations of all city departments and works closely with the mayor and council to ensure the vision of the city's elected officials is implemented. City services are provided by the manager through 15 departments, 152 full-time employees with an operating budget of \$16.1 million as well as enterprise funds (water, sewer, gas, solid waste and theater) and a capital budget of approximately \$12M. Interested candidates must submit by email a cover letter, resume, at least five job related references with email and phone numbers, as well as salary history no later than December 30, 2022: Lisa Ward, senior associate, Mercer Group Associates, at [lisaward912@gmail.com](mailto:lisaward912@gmail.com). Any questions please call 706-983-9326.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**—The city of Mountain Home is seeking a highly motivated professional to serve in the newly created role of public works director. The public works director is a full-time, executive-level position and reports to the mayor. The director oversees multiple divisions including water, sewer, street, with responsibilities over budget, maintenance, repair, policy and regulatory compliance. The director must have a strong technical background and a proven track record of successfully managing and leading staff. The public works director is responsible for the operations and performance of the public works department. Responsibilities include supervision to ensure safety, efficiency and timely completion of department objectives while providing developmental opportunities for department employees. The public works director establishes and maintains appropriate work relationships with municipal officials, state and local organizations, and the general public. The director must use independent judgment and technical expertise to meet departmental objectives. The director is accountable for achieving goals and objectives, while ensuring that the community is provided with desired and mandated services in an effective, cost-efficient manner. Applications can be submitted via the city website at [www.cityofmountainhome.com/careers](http://www.cityofmountainhome.com/careers) or emailed to [sedwards@cityofmountainhome.com](mailto:sedwards@cityofmountainhome.com).

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**—Republic, Missouri. Salary \$80,912.00 - \$121,368.00, full-time, job number 10202022-1 (open until filled). Primary purpose: Acts as a strategic business partner by providing complex financial and administrative support to city administration. This will include direct responsibility for finance, accounting, budgeting, credit, risk management, private and institutional financing, and financial compliance by ensuring financial reporting and procedural compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations as well as generally accepted governmental and accounting principles. To view the full job description or to apply, please visit [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/republicmo/jobs/3767036/finance-director](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/republicmo/jobs/3767036/finance-director).

**FINANCE MANAGER**—Republic, Missouri. Salary \$56,908.80 - \$75,524.80, full-time, job number 10202022-2 (open until filled). Primary purpose: Assists the finance director in managing the accounting, purchasing, and insurance functions of the city. Maintains city financial statements and records. Performs a variety of technical financial tasks and manages the duties of finance personnel. To view the full job description or to apply, please visit [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/republicmo/jobs/3771767/finance-manager](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/republicmo/jobs/3771767/finance-manager).

**FIRE CHIEF**—The city of Batesville is seeking an experienced, trusted and analytical leader to serve as its next fire chief. Under the direction of the mayor, the fire chief is responsible for managing all aspects of fire department operations, administration, budget and personnel. Applicant must have a minimum of 10 years of general experience in a fire department position and 8 years of supervisory/managerial experience. Salary range begins at \$60,000 DOQE. The city offers a generous benefits program including health, life, dental and vision insurance. The fire chief is eligible to participate in the Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System. To apply, please submit resumes and cover letters to: Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, 500 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501; or email [mayorassistant@batesvillearkansas.gov](mailto:mayorassistant@batesvillearkansas.gov). Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.

**FIRE CHIEF**—The city of Heber Springs is accepting applications for fire chief. This position is responsible for managing and directing the day-to-day operations of the Heber Springs Fire Department and Planning and Zoning. The fire chief makes policy recommendations; prepares an annual budget; plans, directs and reviews personnel activities; prepares reports for city officials and state and national organizations; initiates and advises on the development of ordinances and regulations pertaining to fire prevention and suppression; responds on call to emergency situations either as an observer or to command the situation and other duties. Salary and benefit package includes vacation, sick leave, LOPFI retirement, 100 percent

paid medical insurance as well as dental, vision and life insurance. Preferred qualifications are a bachelor's degree with six years of experience, preferably at chief level. Education and experience combination will be considered. Certificates of fire officer, instructor, inspector, EMT and a valid Arkansas DL are necessary. Applications available at the mayor's office, 1001 W. Main St. You may submit a resume and cover letter to City of Heber Springs, Attn: Human Resources, 1001 W. Main St., Heber Springs, AR 72543; or fax to 501-250-0844. You may also download an application from our website at [cityofhebersprings.com](http://cityofhebersprings.com) and mail, fax or email resume to [humanresources@cityofheber.org](mailto:humanresources@cityofheber.org). Open until filled. EOE.

**MAINTENANCE FOREMAN**—A Certified Diesel Mechanic, the maintenance foreman maintains Pine Bluff Transit's vehicles, equipment and facilities. The maintenance foreman works to minimize vehicle and equipment-oriented service failures through scheduled routine maintenance and repairs and by prioritizing repairs in the event of multiple break downs. The maintenance foreman obtains repair parts, assists in preparing bid specifications for new vehicles and equipment, assigns mechanics/techs to help complete task in an efficient manner. The foreman manages the maintenance operation and diagnoses standard mechanical and electronic problems, utilizing diagnostic computer when applicable; utilizes key functions for shop management system and electronic documentation available; works in accordance with all federal and corporate compliance guidelines; maintains facilities, grounds and performs other duties as assigned. A Certified Diesel Mechanic, HS diploma or equivalent with certification from an accredited diesel engine repair or service technology program and 2-3 years of related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience and a minimum of 6-12 months of management experience. Must possess a valid Arkansas Class B CDL. To apply, contact Vickie Conway, Director of Human Resources, 200 E. 8th, Room 104, Pine Bluff, AR 71601; phone 870-730-2038; fax 870-730-2157.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**—The city of Conway is accepting resumes for a planning & development director. Conway, with an estimated population of over 65,000, is home to three universities: the University of Central Arkansas, Hendrix College and Central Baptist College. Conway is a rapidly growing community that has more than doubled in population since 1990, seeing growth in residential, retail, technology, medical and manufacturing sectors. Conway offers a dynamic quality of life with a lively downtown, quality schools and exceptional recreational opportunities. The planning & development director, reporting directly to the mayor, directs and coordinates all activities dealing with planning for the city, including the development of comprehensive plans and programs for utilization of land and physical facilities. The city seeks a proactive leader who is a superior communicator committed to inclusion and diversity. Responsibilities include advising the mayor, city council, planning commission, historic district commission, public art advisory committee, other city departments and the general public regarding planning, zoning and subdivision ordinances and issues. Requirements: master's degree or equivalent in planning, public administration, landscape architecture, architecture, urban planning, urban design or a related field; or a bachelor's degree in one of those fields and four to 10 years' related experience and/or training. Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered. Closing date: January 13, 2023. Salary: Compensation includes a competitive salary and benefits package. For a complete job description, visit [www.conwayarkansas.gov/employment](http://www.conwayarkansas.gov/employment). Please submit resume with salary history to: Human Resources Director, City of Conway, 1111 Main Street, Conway, AR 72032; email [HumanResources@conwayarkansas.gov](mailto:HumanResources@conwayarkansas.gov); or fax 501-358-6325. Conway planning information may be obtained from the Planning Department website, <http://www.conwayarkansas.gov/planning>. The City of Conway is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, status as a covered veteran, political status or other legally protected status. Submitted applications and resumes are subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

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

**PROJECT ENGINEER**—The city of Siloam Springs seeks applicants for the position of project engineer. This position assists the city engineer in the design and construction phases of projects for water, sewer, street and drainage projects. Responsible for maintaining maps and graphics for streets, water lines, sewer lines and other city infrastructure. Reports to city engineer. Education and/or experience: BS in civil engineering from a four-year college or university with an accredited engineering curriculum. Must possess a valid driver's license. Professional civil engineer registration and license in the State of Arkansas or the ability to obtain within six months. Salary range: 56,196-84,294. Open until filled. For a complete job description or to apply, contact Joni Ramos, HR generalist, at 479-373-1162 or email [jramos@siloamsprings.com](mailto:jramos@siloamsprings.com).

**SPORTS COMPLEX COORDINATOR**—The city of Elkins is accepting applications for the position of sports complex coordinator. Requirements for the position are knowledge of athletic programming and planning, knowledge of computer operations, ability to organize and lead a group of volunteers in a manner to achieve good performance and maintain high morale. Must be able to work a flexible schedule this includes nights and weekends. Good physical condition and sufficient strength to do lifting and carrying as required. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds. Possession of valid driver's license. Minimum of high school degree or equivalent, bachelor's degree in recreation or physical education preferred but not required. Salary based on experience. You may apply at the city of Elkins, 1874 Stokenbury Road Elkins, AR 72727; or fax resume to 479-643-3368. Please contact the city of Elkins if you have any questions at 479-643-3400. Open until filled.

**UTILITIES GM**—Benton Utilities is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of general manager. Responsibilities include management, planning, administrating and overseeing the affairs of Benton Utilities electric, water, wastewater, billing services and administrative offices. Salary DOQE. Submit resume and application to Terrie Sossamon, Benton Utilities, 1827 Dale Ave., Benton, AR 72015; or email [tsossamon@bentonutilities.com](mailto:tsossamon@bentonutilities.com). Open until filled. For complete job description visit [www.bentonutilities.com](http://www.bentonutilities.com). EOE.

**WATER/WASTEWATER MANAGER**—The city of Marianna is accepting applications for a water/wastewater manager. Applicants will need to have a minimum of three years' experience in the management of water and wastewater systems. Arkansas Class A water license and Class II wastewater license required. Salary negotiable DOQ. Send resume and salary history to James Keasler, Chairman, Marianna Water and Sewer Dept., P.O. Box 737, Marianna, AR 72360. EOE.

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# Top 10 firm with deep local roots.

Raymond James is a proven partner for issuers across the U.S. – and those right here in Arkansas.

Our team has a long history of serving the Arkansas public sector we can trace back to 1931, when T.J. Raney & Sons opened its doors. A history that continued when we became Morgan Keegan and then joined forces with Raymond James. And through

all that time, our commitment to our clients and to the communities across our state has only grown, helping us become one of the top 10\* underwriters in the country – and the only top 10 national firm in Arkansas.

Put our unique combination of local history and national strength to work for you.

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## ARKANSAS PUBLIC FINANCE

Cheryl Schluterman // Patricia Quinn // Sam Nagel  
Chuck Ellingsworth // James E. Birdwell III // Chad Myers

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RELATIONSHIPS | IDEAS | EXECUTION

**RAYMOND JAMES**

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