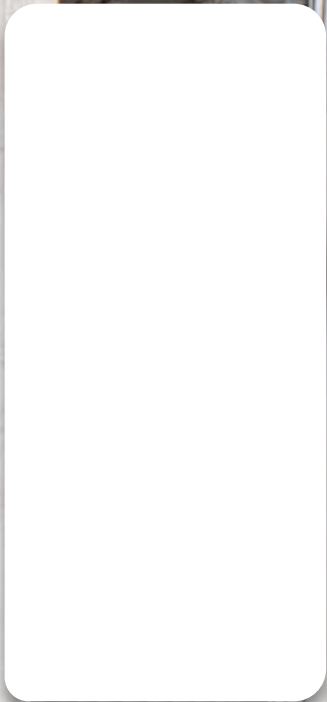


City & Town

APRIL 2023 VOL. 79, NO. 04

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—The sun illuminates the architectural details of the U.S. Capitol on a clear March day in Washington, D.C., which hosted the National League of Cities’ 58th Congressional City Conference last month. Read highlights from the conference inside beginning on page 16. Read also about what city leaders and their residents need to know as the national COVID-19 public health emergency declaration expires in May, tapping into your community’s unique qualities to drive tourism and more, all in this issue.—atm

Features

16 City and town issues take center stage at NLC conference

More than 3,000 municipal leaders from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., in March for the National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference, where they heard from the administration and their fellow city and town leaders on local issues like housing, workforce training, hunger and the opioid crisis and how historic levels of direct federal funding to local governments can help meet these challenges.

20 COVID-19: What’s next?

With the national COVID-19 public health emergency set to expire May 11, it’s important for local leaders and residents to know how it will affect access to vaccines, tests and treatments moving forward. It’s also a good time for city and town officials to assess the effectiveness of their pandemic response.

22 Tourism thrives with community pride

Communities that build upon their unique strengths to increase tourism opportunities not only foster hometown pride, they become attractive destinations for travelers looking for new places to explore.

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Dear colleagues and friends,

As I write this, my heart is heavy for our brothers and sisters in the cities and towns who are conducting cleanup and recovery operations after being hit by devastating tornadoes over the weekend of April 1. Little Rock, North Little Rock, Wynne and a number of other places we all know and love have suffered unspeakable tragedy. We know that property damage is extensive, injuries are numerous and yes, unfortunately loss of life occurred in some cases. It is miraculous that many, many more residents were not harmed or killed during all of this. We have family in west Little Rock who suffered extensive damage to their home, but we are thankful that they were unharmed. I have been in contact with a number of our affected mayors and others, and of course the incredible League staff has jumped into action to help. We must also remember that some of our own League staff members have suffered damages, or have close friends and family who have, and are now juggling their professional response while also trying to help themselves and those closest to them.



We are now seeing the best of humanity take charge, as strangers become friends, friends become like family, and everyone pulls together. I think there are two primary things we can do at this time. We should continue to pray for those affected. Then, we should follow up our faith with actionable support and good works toward our fellow citizens. That may mean loading up and delivering supplies, raising funds to donate, or simply picking up the phone for a few hours and making calls to check in on and encourage those who need it. Thank you for all that you are already doing on this front. I know that those affected feel the prayers and are grateful for the outpouring of physical and financial support they are receiving. "All in this together" should be more than a nice phrase. It should be a continual mindset of how we live and interact with one another.

One final thing. During the last days of March, I was honored to attend the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C., with a great group of fellow mayors, council members and other team members from our cities and our League. It was incredible! We heard from expert speakers, networked with peers from across the nation and told the stories of our places to a wide audience. It was very clear that our League is held in high regard among the others in the United States, and it was a privilege to help represent us during the week. Be sure to check out photos from the trip in this issue. My takeaway: Even at this nationally attended event, I didn't see a bunch of partisan debate or distraction. What I saw was a gathering of diehard city advocates, doing their best to make a real impact for the places and people they represent. It left me energized and refreshed as I returned to my favorite small town, in my favorite state!

Don't forget to get you and your crew signed up for the 89th Convention in Little Rock in June. As always, it will be an incredible time for us to come together for the betterment of our cities and towns. Plus, it's just a lot of fun to see everyone and I cannot wait for that! Remember that the deadline to submit resolutions for consideration is May 12. Also, be sure you're following the League social media accounts for updates on that and other things. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Come find us there!

For greater communities and a greater state,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonas Anderson".

Jonas Anderson
Mayor, Cave City
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Birthdays and Twisters

I'm writing this column on my birthday, April 3. Another trip around the sun and voila, I'm 63 years of age. The Local Controller has threatened to cook dinner tonight. I'll be sure to report any hospitalizations that might occur. She now informs me that a) I'm not nearly as funny as I think I am, and b) she's talking with some local dining establishments about takeout. Whew. Eyeball and out she goes. And just like that it's L.C.-1—OK fine it's 2—and Moi-0.

Having been born in 1960¹ I'm from one of the last years for Baby Boomers.³ I did a little research and found the following generations:⁴

- The Greatest Generation: born 1901-1924
 - Directly impacted by the Great Depression,⁵ they and their children were the epitome of frugality. This generation also made up the majority of soldiers in WWII.⁶ Many of their parents served in the military during WWI.⁷
- The Silent Generation: born 1925-1945
 - Smallest generation due to the Great Depression and WWII as well as being silent on social issues due to the McCarthy⁸ era of politics.
- Baby Boomer Generation: born 1946-1964
 - We are greatly misunderstood by being cast as not tuned into the modern world. In actuality we were integral to many technological advancements and have been adaptable to modern growth.⁹
- Generation X: born 1965-1979
 - Highly relevant to modern times via technology and often serve as a bridge between older generations and newer.
- Millennials: born 1980-1994
 - Often misunderstood and mislabeled as not understanding the values of previous generations and not maturing beyond the values of their childhood.

¹ Here are a few big events from that year: JFK was elected president, OPEC was created and the first weather satellite was launched by the U.S.! <http://bit.ly/40GxUgz> The number one song on April 3, 1960, was Theme from "A Summer Place" by Percy Faith and His Orchestra. Mother Hayes still digs some Percy Faith! <http://bit.ly/43a2S2g> L.C. is laughing at the song. She says she's laughing with me not at me. The only problem with that is I'm not laughing! *The Apartment* won best picture at the 33rd Academy Awards. I didn't watch the movie or the show, after all I was an infant. <http://bit.ly/43jDSpk>

² I researched the number one song on her birthday in hopes of it being something similar. Not so much. It was "I Will Follow Him" by Little Peggy March. <http://bit.ly/3nMgccX> L.C.-3, Moi-1. Not looking so good for Marky boy.

³ 1946-1964 is the generally agreed definition of the Baby Boomer timeline. The term refers to the "boom" in births after the end of WWII. 76 million of us were born in that timeframe and we were the largest generational group in U.S. history until Millennials came along. <http://bit.ly/3ZHHSg3>

⁴ <http://bit.ly/3ZIJJA0T>

⁵ One of the most daunting periods in world history started in September of 1929 but came to full fruition on October 24 and October 29 of the same year when the Wall Street stock market crashed. Forever known as Black Thursday and Black Tuesday respectively, the crash started a decade-long economic depression not only in the U.S. but many other countries around the world. It didn't help that in the mid-1930s a severe drought hit most of the agricultural areas of our country. <http://bit.ly/3MjvwYI>

⁶ The war began in 1939 and did not end until 1945. It shaped world history for decades to come as well as directly affecting most of the world's population. <http://bit.ly/3GjfpPe>

⁷ Known as the Great War, it was kickstarted in 1914 when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie of Austria were assassinated. The killings set off a chain of events culminating in the start of the war. <http://bit.ly/435Zvjx>

⁸ Joseph McCarthy served in the U.S. Senate from 1947 until his death in 1957. He used the fear of the Cold War to become the face of anti-communism. He routinely engaged in bombastic browbeating character attacks to find the "enemies within" the U.S. <http://bit.ly/3Ky2D9I>

⁹ I freely admit asking my kids if they had a FaceSpace page. Not one of my better moments although it has given the family years of laughter.

- Generation Z: born 1995-2012
 - Having been exposed to, and molded by, cyber-bullying/internet misuse, school-related violence and the climate crisis, there is much to be concerned about regarding mental and physical health issues.
- Generation Alpha: born 2013-2025
 - First group to be born in the 21st century! Also, the first children born to parents who grew up with the internet, smartphones, tablets, social media, and a plethora of technological ideas and machines.

I think these monikers are fascinating. It's particularly interesting given the findings of The Pew Charitable Trusts that there isn't a formal process. Rather the terms get tossed around by the media and used in popular parlance until a consensus emerges. There's even some debate about the timelines for each generation.¹⁰

Where was I? Oh yeah. My birthday. I'm excited to spend some quality time with the family over a meal. Of course Zorro and Olive¹¹ will be in attendance. I don't need gifts or a cake, just a little time with L.C. and the kiddos and I'm good to go. I did however get the chance to buy my own birthday present to be gifted to me by the Local Controller. We went to Dick's Sporting Goods¹² looking for a new pocketknife for me. While I didn't find one that suited me, I did find a new multi-tool to replace the one I lost. Fine. I didn't lose it. I forgot it was in my backpack while flying recently and now TSA owns it. Oh, how I wish each of you dear readers could see the smirk on L.C.'s face and the little happy dance she's doing. "Well, well, well...Mr. I Don't Misplace Things got busted in the security line!" Tis true.¹³ Anyway, I got a new multi-tool and baseball hat. She left her purse in the car so I had the privilege of paying for my own birthday gift. I wonder if I must wrap it as well?! Man oh man, that got the laser stare! And the always uplifting: "Get to the point!" Good idea.

The point: I'm old. Loads of chuckles from L.C. and L.C. in training. Age is a relevant thing, of course. When I was 16 I felt certain anyone over the age of 40 seemed ancient. Being in one's 60s was downright decrepit! I don't see it that way now, but I bet you already knew that. The other point is to recognize some very special people from several generations. On Friday, the 31st of March, just a few days before my birthday, our state was rocked by a massive tornado. An EF-3.¹⁴ According to the experts that means tornado winds as high as 165 mph! That's faster than the Local Controller in Training when she's late for work. Laser stare. The devastation stretching from west Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville and Wynne is nothing short of horrifying. Three League staffers were forced to abandon their homes due to damage and loss of utilities. Thankfully neither they nor their families were injured. Their homes will repair although emotions will no doubt run high for the foreseeable future.

I know a little bit about recovery from a tornado. My family and I survived a direct hit from a tornado on January 21, 1999, that struck after dark. You may recall that there were 56 documented tornadoes on January 21 and 22. Most, like the one that hit my house, were F-3 tornadoes, although Clay County was struck by an F-4. There were eight deaths related to the storms.¹⁵ I have vibrant and clear memories of that terrible night. I was going to take the boys to the Harlem Globetrotters¹⁶ that evening. Thank goodness we decided not to attend. The storms were in full force south of us and we sat with our eyes glued to the television watching and listening for any information that would keep us safe. In order, the following things occurred just seconds prior to the tornado arriving:

- A downpour so thick that I could not see the house next to us that was only 15 feet away.
- The rain abruptly ended like a giant faucet was shut off.
- A few seconds of silence.
- Then began the crashing of half-dollar size hail pummeling the house and ground sounding like a large snare drum.

¹⁰ Click on this link to read some cool stuff about the entire process of "naming" generations. <http://bit.ly/40II14m>

¹¹ Zorro is a 75-pound black and white goldendoodle. Olive is 55-pound light brown something-doodle. Her mom Pearl is a goldendoodle. Daddy was more of the mutt variety. My social media posts are full of pictures of them, as well as my family and food. If you want to know the rather comical story about how Olive became a Hayes dog click here: <https://bit.ly/411NDGz>. See page 7 of the PDF, footnote 7.

¹² Dick's Sporting Goods was founded in 1948 by 18-year-old Dick Stack with a \$300 gift from his grandmother. The \$300 was in her cookie jar! <https://investors.dicks.com/about-us/default.aspx>

¹³ It seems clear now that L.C.'s score for this month's column is too far for me to catch. I feel certain that each of you already figured that out!

¹⁴ EF stands for Enhanced Fujita Scale and it replaced the original Fujita scale in February of 2007. <http://bit.ly/43ahZIY> The original Fujita Scale was developed by Dr. T. Theodore Fujita, Ph.D., in 1971. <http://bit.ly/3nLQ69Y>

¹⁵ <http://bit.ly/3GfjOuo>

¹⁶ Abe Saperstein founded the team in 1926. They've entertained nearly 150 million people in 123 countries. They really are "Ambassadors of Extraordinary Goodwill." <http://bit.ly/3GnQfGT>

- A few seconds of silence.
- A low roar began like a train and almost immediately became a deafening roar as though the train was in our ears.
- We grabbed the two boys, seeing the terror in their eyes.
- We slung them onto the pile of pillows in the hallway just a few feet away from where we were watching TV.
- I draped myself over the top of the family just as the house was hit.
- We felt the pressure and watched as the plaster walls cracked like giant spider webs, starting at the baseboards and reaching the ceilings.
- The lights went out and all hell broke loose.
- Debris filled the air.
- Tree trunks and branches broke sounding like a hundred cannons being fired within seconds of each other.
- Then silence.

All of that occurred in mere seconds. Once it was clear the tornado had passed my immediate concern was for my family. Thankfully we had no physical injuries. Emotionally we were all drained and we would all suffer a little PTSD. I stepped out on the front porch and a weird purple haze filled the night. The damage was overwhelming and difficult to reconcile with my memory of our home and street just moments before. Massive oak trees littered the landscape and lay on houses as though a box of toothpicks were dropped on a table. No order, just utter chaos. Then I heard my neighbors yell for help. Their house was severed in half by a huge tree. I ran to assist them as they were trying to crawl from under the house. No injuries thankfully, but I'll never forget the fear and shock in their eyes. Then another yell from across the street from a single mom with three kids. I clamored over, under and around the trees and other debris to get to the house. They were in shock, and one of the little girls was screaming. After getting her under control the family of four held each other's hands and my belt loops as I lead them back to my house.¹⁷

My story is the same as hundreds of others from this past Friday. Let me rephrase that. The same as tens of thousands of Arkansans. I started this column discussing the various generations over the past 123 years. I did so for a reason. Within 30 minutes of the 1999 tornado, police and firefighters were in the area. The next day city street crews, electric teams, the Red Cross, neighbors, volunteers, tree cutting companies, medical teams and many others appeared like magic. All of them came with one purpose in mind: to help. I'll give you one guess what group of people stayed the longest and offered the most help. Yep, city officials, employees and volunteers. And they crossed many generational boundaries including the Silent Generation, the Boomers, Gen X and Millennials. I bet most of you, crossing multiple generations, are providing the same level of help tirelessly and with great determination. Well, probably not the Silent Generation but I bet some of the Gen Z pitched in! I know Mayor Scott (Little Rock), Mayor Hartwick (North Little Rock), Mayor Heye-Townsell (Sherwood), Mayor Elmore (Jacksonville) and Mayor Hobbs (Wynne) have not taken a single minute off duty since the storm passed except to catch a little sleep and gobble down a meal. Frankly, I bet every person who is elected in those cities, works for those cities and volunteers for those cities has been at it nonstop since Friday's storm. To *all* of you, Generation *City & Town*, I salute you! You're making a difference every day, tornadoes or no tornadoes.

Until next month, peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League


¹⁷ At the time my house remained standing and appeared to have suffered less damage than others. We had blown out windows, a tree across the roof in the back of the house and floors in some places that felt like walking in a fun house at the fair. Later we learned the entire front wall of the home was a mere half inch from collapsing. We also learned the house had been knocked off its foundation.



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Rodney McCain
Project Manager
Land Development Department

Who we are ...

"Working in a profession such as land development, where you end up able to view the finished results of many hours of thought and effort put into the civil design work for many widely varying projects, is hugely rewarding. As civil engineers and landscape architects, we bring tangible, visible improvements to the natural and built environment and communal facilities we share as communities within Arkansas. I've lost count of the number of projects we've driven past with my kids where I've been able to say, 'Your Dad helped with that development!'"

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family, reading and building jigsaw puzzles, through (as with many British people!) my true passion lies with soccer and, in particular, following the fortunes of Manchester United F.C.

501 Day celebrates central Arkansas

Back for its third year, 501 Day celebrates central Arkansas and all it has to offer, the Downtown Little Rock Partnership has announced. The date of the holiday is, appropriately, May 1.

Most people know 501 as the area code for central Arkansas. Over the years, 501 has come to represent much more than just part of a phone number; 501 has become a symbol of a beautiful, bustling region in the heart of Arkansas. The Downtown Little Rock Partnership, together with other cities, chambers of commerce and community organizations throughout central Arkansas, created 501 Day in 2021 to celebrate the region they are proud to call home. Each community in the area code is encouraged to engage their residents, organizations and businesses with creative ways to celebrate. Participants might show their 501 pride with special 501-themed offers, activities, merchandise, public art displays and whatever else they dream up.



With the hashtag #Celebrate501, @Celebrate501 on Instagram and Facebook, and the official website at Celebrate501.com, 501 Day and the Celebrate 501 movement now have a public platform for people to share what they love about central Arkansas year-round, culminating with an annual event on May 1.

To learn more about what cities fall in the 501 area code, and to see a list of 501 Day activities and offers, visit Celebrate501.com.

IIMC celebrates 54th Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) has designated April 30 through May 6, 2023, as the 54th Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969 and endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the clerk's office.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that officially declared Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations confirming Municipal Clerks Week.

The 54th Municipal Clerks Week will feature a series of activities aimed at increasing the public's awareness of municipal clerks and the vital services they provide for local government and the community. To learn how you can participate

and spread awareness in your community, visit www.iimc.com/156/Municipal-Clerks-Week for media releases, videos, posters and other promotional ideas.

2023 Act 833 deadline for Arkansas fire departments

The 2023 Act 833 application period will open January 1, 2023, and will close June 30, 2023. Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board and requires all Arkansas fire departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901-compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certified training and personal protective equipment for all active members.

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

Event Calendar

June 14-16, 2023, Arkansas Municipal League 89th Convention in Little Rock, AR

November 16-18, 2023, National League of Cities City Summit in Atlanta, GA

Obituaries

TODD ALLEN BARTHOLOMEW, 54, who served two stints as mayor of Weiner, from 1999-2006 and from 2015-2018, died March 16. Bartholomew also served his community as a Weiner Volunteer Fireman and EMT.

JAMES ANDREW HAMILTON, 60, who served as the elected city attorney for Crossett for 23 years after serving as deputy city attorney from 1993-1998, died March 24. Hamilton also served as city attorney for Eudora, Parkdale, Portland, Montrose and Banks.

CRYSTAL WYRICK, 37, a five-year veteran of the Pine Bluff Police Department, died April 3.

Summaries of Attorney General opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

Custodian of records can't consider motive

Opinion: 2023-018

Requestor: Officer George Perez, Morrilton Police Dept.

Q1) May a records custodian under the FOIA consider the requester's motives or intent in making the FOIA request?

RESPONSE: No.

"Amusement" and "gambling" devices differ

Opinion: 2023-008

Requestor: Ashley Hudson, State Representative

Q1) Does Arkansas Code Annotated § 26-57-401 exempt "amusement devices" from the State's prohibitions on "gambling devices" so long as such devices do not include an automatic payoff and the prizes for winning are nonmonetary and have a value of less than \$5.00? Q2) If a coin-operated machine requires some level of skill, does not include an automatic payoff, and is operated entirely within the limitations contained in Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-57-401, can it nevertheless be considered an unlawful "gaming device" under Arkansas Code Annotated § 5-66-104? Q3) If the owner of an "amusement device" authorized under Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-57-401 leases the device to a merchant who uses the machine illegally (e.g., the merchant or her employees gives cash to a customer for using the machine) can the machine be seized by law enforcement and destroyed pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 5-5-501 et seq. without a civil forfeiture action? **RESPONSE:** The answer to each of your questions is "no."

Service as JP, school board member can't overlap

Opinion: 2023-005

Requestor: Dan Sullivan, State Senator

Q1) May a justice of the peace be elected as a member of a school board of directors while maintaining the office of justice of the peace? Q2) If the answer is no, is there a penalty for holding both offices? **RESPONSE:** Q1) If the JP's term of office would overlap with the term of office on the school board, then the JP would be ineligible to serve on the school board. Q2) While there is no civil or criminal penalty for this kind of dual office holding, the person holding both offices is subject to removal.

Release of internal affairs files consistent with FOIA

Opinion: 2023-013

Requestor: Sgt. Jeremy Holliman, Conway Police Dept.

Is the custodian's decision to release all the records in two internal-affairs investigative files about two different officers consistent with the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, your decision to disclose both sets of records is consistent with the FOIA.

To read full Attorney General opinions online, visit the "Opinions" page at www.arkansasag.gov or email oag@arkansas.gov.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY PROGRAM

Visit the Municipal Property Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal: www.arml.org/mpp

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

Create an MPP interactive account by emailing mpp@arml.org your:

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



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

ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September, 2023. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include four certification class Scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute Sept. 18-21, 2023, in N. Little Rock; one scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education, Sept. 18-19, 2023,

in North Little Rock, and one scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' (IIMC) annual conference, May 14-17, 2023, in Minneapolis Minnesota.

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

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

Penny R. Lamb
Recorder/Treasurer
City of Murfreesboro
805 N Washington Ave
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Questions: murfreesboroclerk@yahoo.com
 or 870- 285-3732

2023 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Name: _____ Title: _____

(Applicant must be a City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer or related title at the time of application)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Date assumed position: _____

Are you a member of: ACCRTA Yes _____ No _____ IIMC Yes _____ No _____

(Members will be given first consideration)

Education: H.S. _____ Graduate College (years) _____ Degree _____

This application is for: ___ First ___ Second _____ Third year Institute or _____ Advanced Academy

Have you ever received a MCI scholarship? If so, when? _____

What is your approximate cost to attend MCI (including tuition, lodging, meals and transportation): _____

What does your city budget for training? _____

What is your reason for applying for this scholarship? _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used for the current year MCI and that I must attend all sessions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

	IIMC Conference, Minneapolis, MN	May 14-17, 2023	Deadline: April 1, 2023
	Municipal Clerks' Institute, North Little Rock, AR	September 17-21, 2023	Deadline: May 31, 2023
	Academy for Advanced Education, North Little Rock, AR	September 17-21, 2023	Deadline: May 31, 2023

Disclaimer: ACCRTA will not be responsible for applications that do not reach the chairman by the deadline. Please feel free to call after a few days to be sure your application was received.

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2023. The finalist will be honored at the 89th Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League, June 14-16, in Little Rock.

The deadline for nominations is April 30.

Requirements for nominees:

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

Complete the application below and send to:

Penny R. Lamb
Recorder Treasurer, City of Murfreesboro
805 N. Washington Ave.
Murfreesboro, AR 71958
murfreesboroclerk@yahoo.com

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2023

Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME AND TITLE _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS _____

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

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

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD _____

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED _____

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

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

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED _____

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

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

DATE OF CERTIFICATION _____

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED _____

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INSTRUCTOR, PANEL MEMBER, MODERATOR) _____

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2023 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR.



NLC takes local priorities to D.C.

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

More than 3,000 city and town officials gathered in Washington, D.C., March 27-29 for the National League of Cities' 58th Congressional City Conference, where they heard from members of the Biden administration and their fellow municipal officials on issues essential to local governments, including American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, infrastructure, housing, workforce training and the opioid crisis.

The final Tuesday of the conference, dubbed "Hill Day," gave local leaders the opportunity to set meetings with their congressional delegations to discuss the issues important to their hometowns.



Taking the stage to the tune of Sister Sledge's "We are Family," Tacoma, Washington, Mayor Victoria Woodards, this year's NLC president, addressed the conference during the opening general session, sharing priorities from her platform: "People plus partnerships equal incredible possibilities." It's essential that local priorities are reflected in federal legislation, she said. "And while those priorities may differ slightly from city to city and district to district, as local leaders we are all united in the belief that we can create and we must and we will create strong, thriving communities where there is an abundance of possibilities for every single one of our residents." Addressing the need for affordable housing is one of the most pressing issues, she said. "Friends, our housing crisis is not going away any time soon, and data shows actually that it's getting worse for our most vulnerable people across the country. More than 10 million renters spend more than half of their income on rent, and the pandemic, as all of you know, has really accelerated the crisis, and we cannot wait any longer to do something about it, and it starts today." Local leaders are an essential part of the solution, Woodards said.



First Lady Dr. Jill Biden addressed the Congressional City Conference on Monday, March 27. She shared the administration's efforts to expand access to education and workforce training with a particular focus on the nation's community colleges and technical training institutions. "For most people, a high school education alone isn't enough to find a great career, but they often don't need a four-year degree to pursue their passions either," she said. "Community colleges have always been about jobs, and you know that because many of you work with them." The president's proposed 2024 budget prioritizes making community college and career-preparation educational available to more students through the Education Pathway program.

Arkansas was well represented at the 2023 Congressional City Conference and on Capitol Hill, with 30 city and town officials, League staff and family members making the trip to hear from national leaders on pressing issues and advocate for their communities' needs. After a Hill Day meeting with Rep. Steve Womack on March 28, members of Arkansas' municipal delegation paused for a photo on the east steps of the U.S. Capitol.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN



With the historic levels of direct investment through ARPA, it's essential that cities and towns share how the funding has transformed their communities and improved the lives of residents, NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony said. "As we reflect on this opportunity we have with ARPA, we have to recognize how critically important it is to tell the story about the dollars and how they are working in the community." He encouraged municipal leaders to impress upon their congressional representatives how successful direct funding for cities has been "so that the model of getting money directly in the hands of the most trusted level of government is used over and over again and we don't have to go begging and working with the state folks to get money for us to do our jobs."



From left, Politico reporter Juan Perez moderated a panel of mayors from cities across the nation, including Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott; Jackson, Mississippi, Mayor Chokwe Lumumba; Charleston, West Virginia, Mayor Amy Goodwin; and Mesa, Arizona, Mayor John Giles, who shared public safety strategies that have helped reduce crime in their communities, including partnering with state and federal agencies to address root causes of crime like mental health and drug abuse, particularly the opioid crisis that has gripped so many communities.



Gene Sperling, the Biden administration's ARPA coordinator and a senior White House advisor, praised the effectiveness of the legislation. "I truly believe it is the most historic, it is the most progressive, it is the most equitable recovery plan ever passed or implemented in our country." A part of the key to ARPA's success was its distribution directly to local governments. "You were able to look at what was best for your city, for your community, and design that without the fear that someone else was going to control when and how you got funds," Sperling said.



Arkansas Rep. Steve Womack hosted members of his home state's municipal delegation in the U.S. Capitol's historic Lincoln Room on Tuesday, March 28. He and his staff offered a tour of the room—including a "secret" passageway—that once served as the office of the 16th president. Speaking briefly to the gathered city and town officials, Womack reflected on the importance of the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, which paved the way for local governments to be able to collect sales and use tax on internet purchases. Womack had long been a champion of the issue and had authored legislation to address the need, but it failed to pass despite bipartisan support. The court's ruling changed everything, he said. "If you think about what happened during COVID, and if you are an objective mind, even if you disagreed with what we were trying to do, you have to admit it saved the state of Arkansas and a lot of other states, and it saved your cities and your counties."



Marcia Fudge, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a former local leader, having served eight years as the mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio. "We are right now in a crisis in this country," she said. "We are in a crisis of housing and homelessness in this country." Historic direct funding to cities and towns through ARPA and federal infrastructure legislation gives local governments an opportunity to make a difference. "We are more than one million houses short in this country, and we treat poor people as if they do not exist. And we have to stop. We have neglected public housing for decades, we have neglected to build starter homes, and we have let people come in and buy up our communities and push our people out." The president's 2024 budget requests increased funding to help HUD work with local governments and developers to build more housing for seniors, those with disabilities and others in need, Fudge said.



"We're facing the most dynamic drug-supply environment this country and this world has ever faced," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The rise of synthetic illicit drugs like fentanyl is an unprecedented challenge, which prompted President Biden in his state of the union address to announce a "surge against fentanyl." We are losing an American every five minutes to a drug overdose, and that is unacceptable, Gupta said. "It's going to take all of us working together to end the opioid crisis, as President Biden has called for. So we're all going to be working tirelessly, all of us here, to get access to treatment, to reduce the supply of these drugs and make sure that you and your communities have the tools and the resources you need to address this scourge."



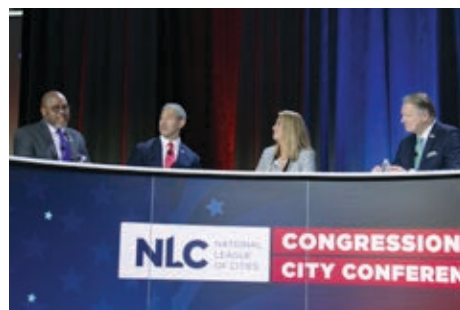
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, who served early in his career as the mayor of a small Iowa city, updated municipal leaders on efforts within the Department of Agriculture to increase workforce opportunities through the expansion of food processing facilities across the country and increasing access to healthy food, particularly to children in underserved areas. He announced a new rule that will allow more local schools to access meal programs for students. "It's a chance for school districts across the United States to provide universal free meals to students in school," he said. "We know that those free meals not only provide great nutrition for kids, but they also improve health outcomes for youngsters in school and they also improve educational outcomes, so we have lowered the threshold for qualifying for community eligibility."



Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget, touted the president's budget priorities, which include funding for housing, workforce development, transportation, manufacturing, public safety and other areas that directly affect cities and towns. Biden's budget also protects Social Security and Medicare. "Benefit cuts are off the table on his watch," she said. "The president likes to say, 'Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget.'" The president rolled out his 2024 budget proposal in early March, and it reflects the administration's dedication to cities and towns, she said. "We commit to invest in you in a fiscally responsible way and to grow our economy from the bottom up and the middle out."



ARPA has been a lifeline to the nation's cities through the COVID-19 pandemic, NLC President Victoria Woodards said during a March 27 press conference. "This direct flexible funding made available to our cities, towns and villages throughout the country has proven to be transformative, allowing us not only to survive the pandemic, but to also effectively recover and rebuild," Woodards said. She announced a new NLC report, *Unlocking Possibilities*, which tells the stories of how cities are utilizing ARPA funds to stabilize budgets, provide essential services and support struggling residents. "When you give money to local cities, towns and villages, we know best how to spend it." The report is available online at www.nlc.org.



Continuing the conversation about the opioid crisis in our cities and towns, Union City, Georgia, Mayor Vince Williams, NLC immediate past president, left, moderated a panel discussion with San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg; Centennial, Colorado, Mayor Stephanie Piko; and Huntington, West Virginia, Mayor Stephen Williams, who shared the damage caused by opioids in their communities and the steps they've taken to mitigate the crisis. After a mass overdose event in 2016, Huntington created a quick response team to help prevent deaths and offer treatment options. "If somebody wants treatment, they need to get it within six hours—not six days, not six weeks, not six months," Williams said.



In an emotional presentation, NLC President Victoria Woodards welcomed to the stage representatives of the League's newest constituency group, Local Indigenous Leaders (LIL). It is the NLC's first new caucus in 20 years. LIL provides municipal officials who identify and ally with Indigenous Peoples a space and network to connect with their colleagues, share ideas, develop leadership experience while uplifting the perspectives of Indigenous communities and educate the greater organization on historical and current issues facing Indigenous and Tribal communities. For more information on LIL and NLC's other constituency groups, visit www.nlc.org/cg.



What you need to know about the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency

By Joe Thompson, M.D., M.P.H.

The national COVID-19 public health emergency is set to end May 11, nearly three and a half years after it was first declared on January 31, 2020. When the virus that causes COVID-19 first appeared, an emergency response was appropriate because this was a highly infectious virus that none of our immune systems had ever seen and for which there was no vaccine. Today, most Americans likely have some protection against the virus resulting from past exposure or vaccination, and although COVID-19 is still with us, the U.S. is transitioning out of the emergency phase of its response to the pandemic.

Many policies implemented during the emergency will end during this transition, including policies regarding testing, vaccines, treatment and Medicaid enrollment. In this column I will discuss a few of these changes and offer some forward-looking advice.

Testing

One of the most obvious and immediate changes will be the end of the policy under which people with private insurance or Medicare are eligible for eight free at-home COVID-19 tests per month. After May 11, some may have to pay out of pocket for tests. You may have seen some stores urging customers to stock up on tests before that date.

People on Medicaid will continue to be eligible for free at-home COVID-19 tests through September 30, 2024, but some may face cost-sharing after that date.

Congress has discontinued funding for the federal program that periodically allowed U.S. residents to obtain free at-home COVID-19 tests through the mail. The federal government has said it may continue to distribute its stockpile of tests, but the supply is diminishing.

The requirement that private health insurance companies cover laboratory COVID-19 tests with no cost-sharing, even when the tests are performed by health care providers outside of the insurers' networks, will end May 11.

Vaccines

Congress has chosen to stop funding the program under which the federal government purchased COVID-19 vaccines and made them free to all. The vaccines will continue to be free for people with health coverage through Medicare, Medicaid or most private health plans, but when the supply of government-purchased vaccines runs out, insurers will bear the cost of purchasing new ones, so premiums may increase.

For the uninsured, at least one COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be accessible. Vaccine maker Moderna announced in February that it would voluntarily continue providing its COVID-19 vaccine free to people without insurance even after the supply of government-purchased vaccines runs out.

Treatment

Some people who have never paid for COVID-19 pharmaceutical treatments such as the antiviral pill Paxlovid will begin facing out-of-pocket costs this year or next year. People on Medicare may begin to face cost-sharing requirements for pharmaceutical treatments after May 11, and people on Medicaid may face cost-sharing after September 30, 2024. No pandemic-era policy has ever required that treatment be free for people with private insurance, although many insurers voluntarily provided full coverage early in the pandemic.

Telehealth

Some flexibilities associated with providing health care via telehealth will end in May, but Congress has extended most telehealth flexibilities for Medicare beneficiaries through December 31, 2024. In Arkansas, the General Assembly approved legislation in 2021 that made several telehealth flexibilities permanent, including providing Medicaid coverage for behavioral health and substance use services delivered via telehealth.

Unfortunately, a federal policy allowing health care providers to prescribe buprenorphine, a drug used to treat opioid use disorder, via telehealth is set to expire in May, limiting access to this life-saving medication. The Drug Enforcement Administration is reportedly working on a rule to extend this flexibility in some situations.

Medicaid

Another big change is the end of a pandemic-era policy that gave states additional funding for Medicaid programs on the condition that they not disenroll people. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 gives states permission to resume determinations of Medicaid eligibility in April and allows them to take up to a year to complete the process, but Arkansas has given itself a time limit of six months.

Some Arkansans with Medicaid coverage—including coverage through the Medicaid expansion program for Arkansans with low incomes, Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me, or ARHOME—likely have experienced income increases or other changes in circumstances that have made them no longer eligible. Many of them likely will qualify for free or low-cost health plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace and will be able to enroll outside of the annual open enrollment period at HealthCare.gov. For those who remain Medicaid-eligible, it is important that when contacted by the Department of Human Services they promptly submit all required documentation.

Assess your response

We enter the non-emergency phase of the pandemic with the knowledge that new, more dangerous variants—or an entirely new pandemic—could emerge at any time. For municipal leaders, now is the time to assess and document the aspects of your pandemic response that worked well for your communities so that if you or your successors are ever in a similar situation, the knowledge you have gained is not lost.

Topics to consider include:

- **Critical operations.** What did you learn about which operations could be suspended and which could not? In what areas did you have the most challenges? What unexpected challenges emerged?
- **Workforce issues.** What worked best to protect workers and maintain services? This could include measures such as screening employees for symptoms, separating employees into shifts, cross-training employees to fill in for others who

become infected, distancing employees' workstations, and allowing employees to work remotely when possible.

- **Interaction with the public.** What worked best to make interaction between employees and the public safe? This could include measures such as providing services via the internet or drive-thru stations, placing physical barriers between employees and the public, and enforcing social distancing.
- **Communications strategies.** What did you find were the best methods of communicating consistent, accurate information, both internally and to the public? What sources of information did you find most credible and most useful? What new relationships and communication strategies were developed within your community?

Every community should develop a pandemic preparedness plan that incorporates the lessons learned over the past 3 and a half years. These lessons should also inform other areas of planning, from flexible employee policies to built environments that include features such as hand-sanitizing stations, optimal ventilation and air filtration, and open spaces.

We have the unwanted distinction of having lived through a global pandemic. Let's ensure the experience was not in vain by documenting what we have learned so we are better prepared for any future threat we may face. 🙏



Joe Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., is president and CEO of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and was Arkansas' surgeon general under Govs. Mike Huckabee and Mike Beebe.

It's all about community

By Kalene Griffith, guest writer

As we kick off our 2023 tourism campaigns, it's an ideal moment to reflect on what we've learned from the past few years.

Today, travelers crave more meaningful and authentic connections with the places they visit. That's why it's crucial for tourism bureaus to prioritize the quality of life of the communities they represent. By investing in local cultural events, public spaces and one-of-a-kind adventures, tourism bureaus can create attractive places to live and unforgettable experiences that leave a lasting impact on visitors.

When a tourism bureau supports a community's quality of life, it can create a virtuous cycle of growth and development. The investment serves as a catalyst to attract more visitors, which will in turn drive economic growth and job creation. Such growth can further incentivize tourism bureaus to invest in their communities, creating a positive feedback loop that benefits everyone.

Tourism leaders must direct their efforts and dollars toward creating vibrant and welcoming environments for locals and guests alike to achieve these results. That might involve preserving and promoting your area's natural beauty and cultural heritage, supporting access to the arts and outdoor recreation, or investing in public infrastructure, which makes your community more accessible and enjoyable.

On the one hand, these efforts can directly support tourism while supporting local businesses, artists, organizations and community development initiatives. On the other hand, they promote overall satisfaction among residents and foster community pride. That can result in a friendlier and more welcoming environment, which has the potential to enhance the visitor experience and set the stage for affordable, sustainable tourism that can weather economic downturns and continue to attract visitors year-round.

Data suggest travel will rebound to near pre-pandemic levels in 2023, but it is also anticipated that cost will be a significant consideration for most travelers. According to a tourism recovery outlook issued by the United Nations World Tourism Organization, travel should reach 80-95 percent of what it was in 2019. A survey by tourism research firm Longwoods International found that nearly 90 percent of U.S. residents plan to travel in the next six months. Still, half said their financial situation had led them to scale back their vacation plans.



PHOTO BY CAMPBELL CREATIVE

Consider your community's untapped features to increase tourism. Bentonville utilized its natural resources to become a destination for mountain bikers from across the globe.

In light of this shift, communities that have invested in public spaces, cultural events and outdoor recreation are well-placed to attract visitors seeking affordable tourism in 2023 and beyond. The key is to lean into free or low-cost events and public spaces that showcase your community's uniqueness. That is the only way to stand out.

Consider overlooked or untapped features, from historical events that occurred in town to natural resources like rivers, hiking trails or parks. Explore how those features might be leveraged to attract niche regional audiences.

For example, here in Bentonville, our community built upon its natural attributes to establish itself as the Mountain Biking Capital of the World and create an outdoor recreation industry contributing \$137 million to the local economy. Mountain biking attractions have undoubtedly brought new visitors to the area. At the same time, residents enjoy the benefits of amenities that add more fun and pleasure to their lives while improving mental and physical health at little to no cost.

When you start by working to build a community people love to call home, you end up with a destination that travelers love to visit and explore. 🌍

Kalene Griffith is president and CEO of Visit Bentonville, chairwoman of the Northwest Arkansas Tourism Association, former chairwoman of the Arkansas State Parks and Tourism Commission and a board member at the Arkansas Hospitality Association Travel Council. Her op-ed appeared originally in the March 2 edition of Talk Business & Politics (talkbusiness.net) and is reprinted with the author's permission.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT

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PHOTO COURTESY ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Greenwood was one of numerous cities to share nearly \$6.5 million in Outdoor Recreation Grants. From left, Greenwood Parks Director Casey Craig, Mayor Doug Kinslow and Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Director Mike Mills.

State awards \$6.5 million in Outdoor Recreation Grants

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism has awarded nearly \$6.5 million in Outdoor Recreation Grants to 54 projects in 35 counties across the state, the agency announced March 16. The grants fall into two categories: Facilities for Underdeveloped Neighborhoods (FUN) Park grants and matching grants.

“These grants help projects to complete or improve upon facilities that provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities within our local communities,” said Mike Mills, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. “Not only do these projects improve quality of life for the people who live in these communities, they also boost the local economy by providing additional amenities to draw visitors who will shop, dine and may even stay overnight.”

The 2023 matching grant recipients are:

- Batesville (Independence County)—\$175, 677 to purchase and install playground equipment at Splash Pad Park and Kennedy Park that includes barrier-free access improvements, and to install a walkway to provide barrier-free access to an existing playground at the soccer complex.
- Beebe (White County)—\$250,000 to replace batting cages near the public pool with a splash pad and update playground equipment, including replacement of a slide and fall zone material at

- Beebe City Park-John Douglass Sports Complex, and to provide barrier-free access improvement to an existing playground at Beebe Community Pond.
- Booneville (Logan County)—\$215,000 to build a splash pad, restrooms and walkways; to enhance existing playground with new equipment, new impact material and border; to refurbish existing playground equipment; and provide new park amenities at Marcelle Phillips Park.
- Bryant (Saline County)—\$166,437.80 to include additional inclusive play equipment and a rain garden to address drainage issues at Mills Park.
- Corning (Clay County)—\$250,000 for renovation of the Corning City Pool and Wynne Community Park.
- Des Arc (Prairie County) for a new restroom and concession stand at the ballpark complex – \$158,896.62
- Fairfield Bay (Van Buren County)—\$222,415 to install playground at Sunset Park; to acquire land for Pickleball Courts Park and develop pickleball facilities, lighting, electricity, fencing, accessible parking and walkways.
- Goshen (Washington County)—\$120,800 to acquire an additional 19.3 acres of park land for Mill Branch Park.

- Greenwood (Sebastian County)—\$239,278.15 to build a splash pad, parking, driveway and accessibility in Bell Park.
- Horatio (Sevier County)—\$24,990 to improve Hendrix Sports Complex adding new play equipment border timbers, engineered wood fiber and ADA access.
- Little Rock (Pulaski County)—\$180,000 for grading to build a soccer field, install soccer goals, provide seeding, bleachers, new play equipment, parking and a boardwalk and removal of damaged/unsafe play equipment at Boyle Park.
- Maumelle (Pulaski County)—\$240,000 for an all-inclusive playground that will connect to the existing inclusive splash pad by the library and charter school.
- Mena (Polk County)—\$250,000 for a splash pad, parking and sidewalks at Tapley Park.
- Miller County—\$78,336.20 for play equipment, a pavilion, parking and a sidewalk at Alex Smith County Park.
- Mountain View (Stone County)—\$79,727 to resurface deteriorated tennis courts, restripe for tennis/pickleball combination use, construct ADA access improvements to tennis/pickleball courts at the recreational complex; replace/replenish fall zone surfacing at the city park.
- Newport (Jackson County)—\$35,401 to replace old/obsolete swings, provide barrier-free access to swings, basketball court, slide and pavilion at Hines Park; to install barrier-free parking and access, and a fence to improve user safety at swings at Normandy Park.
- Osceola (Mississippi County)—\$75,000 to resurface and restripe tennis courts for combination tennis/pickleball use, bury overhead electric lines, construct barrier-free access and install new fall zone material at the small playground at Florida Park.
- Prescott (Nevada County)—\$36,676.15 to provide a shade structure and basketball goals for Prescott City Park; to construct an ADA-accessible parking pad that will connect to the concession stand, install a chain link fence, lighting and a gravel parking lot at McRae Park.
- Shannon Hills (Saline County)—\$89,035.60 to construct a walking trail, exercise stations, picnic tables, a shade structure and to rehabilitate the existing basketball court in Clayton Park.
- Springdale (Washington County)—\$220,000 to install an all-inclusive playground facility at Murphy Park.

The 2023 FUN Park grant recipients are:

- Arkansas City (Desha County)—\$100,000 to install a basketball court and pavilion.
- Augusta (Woodruff County)—\$100,000 to construct a community park on library property that will include a multi-purpose pavilion/stage, play equipment, seating, landscaping and barrier-free access.
- Beedeville (Jackson County)—\$100,000 to expand playground area, add new play structures, replace playground fall zone material, install gravel in parking area and restripe existing barrier-free parking space at Beedeville City Park.
- Bradford (White County)—\$100,000 to replace outdated/deteriorated bleacher seating, install concrete pads and shade covers at Bradford City Park.
- Buckner (Lafayette County)—\$99,997.30 to include a walking trail, play equipment, a sidewalk and remove old play equipment at Leroy Brown Memorial Park.
- Caulksville (Logan County)—\$100,000 to develop Caulksville City Park, install a playground with impact surface and fencing, construct walkways, parking and other amenities.
- Clarendon (Monroe County)—\$99,995 to include a pavilion, picnic tables and parking at Donald Branch Fishin' Hole Park.
- Concord (Cleburne County)—\$97,479 to install new play structure, replace fall zone material at existing play area, replace fence separating park from adjacent city streets, provide barrier-free parking and access improvements at Brackett City Park.
- Delaplaine (Greene County)—\$100,000 to install new playground equipment and fall zone material at existing playground area, construct picnic shelter with tables, barrier-free parking and walkways at Delaplaine City Park.
- Dell (Mississippi County)—\$99,000 to install a pavilion and gazebo with picnic tables and a barrier-free walkway to each, barrier-free access to the existing playground area at Dell City Park.
- Emmet (Nevada County)—\$100,000 to construct a multi-purpose pavilion with electrical and water access, repair existing walking trail and parking at Fireman's Park.
- Fifty-Six (Stone County)—\$98,102 to remove deteriorated softball field lighting, remove/replace chain link baseline fencing and backstop, regrade softball field, install bleachers with concrete pads, install barrier-free parking and sidewalk access at Fifty-Six City Park.

- Fountain Lake (Garland County)—\$100,000 to install a pavilion, parking and sidewalk.
- Fox Community (Stone County)—\$99,918 to replace/repair fencing around ballfield, install new fence at basketball court, develop barrier-free access to dugouts and basketball court at Fox Community Park.
- Hartford (Sebastian County)—\$100,000 to install play equipment, sun shade, musical equipment and other site amenities at McClung Music Park.
- Hazen (Prairie County)—\$92,995.38 to install play equipment, parking and sidewalks at Town and Country Park.
- Jennette (Crittenden County)—\$99,214 to construct a new park with a basketball court, playground with impact area, pavilion and barrier-free parking/access.
- Marmaduke (Greene County)—\$98,620 to install a pavilion, impact material for existing playground, barrier-free access and parking at Marmaduke City Park.
- McCrory (Woodruff County)—\$99,522 to install play equipment, wood fiber fall zone surfacing, perimeter fencing, barrier-free parking and access at Raney Park.
- McNab (Hempstead County)—\$99,991.20 to rehabilitate walking trail and add benches.
- Oil Trough (Independence County)—\$100,000 to install safety surfacing at play area, playground equipment, drinking fountain, barrier-free parking and access to connect to existing pavilion at Oil Trough School Park.
- Pangburn (White County)—\$100,000 to install swing set, fall zone material, performance course exercise equipment, barrier-free parking and access at Pangburn City Park.
- Appleton Community (Pope County)—\$100,000 to construct/install a backstop, light poles, electricity, fencing, foul poles and accessible parking and walkway at Appleton Ball Park.
- Ravenden Springs (Randolph County)—\$100,000 to install new playground equipment/area, barrier-free parking/sidewalk, access to new playground and existing restroom, pavilion and basketball court at Smokey Belcher Park.
- Rison (Cleveland County)—\$99,968 to include sensory stations, benches and parking at Veterans Park and Powell Park.
- Saint Paul (Madison County)—\$100,000 to construct a walking trail, accessible parking, install impact surface, fencing, benches and electricity to pavilion at Robbie Stephens Park.
- Welcome Home Community (Searcy County)—\$100,000 to construct a walking trail, accessible parking and pavilion, benches, and playground at Welcome Home Community Park.
- Star City (Lincoln County)—\$100,000 to install play equipment, trash/recycling receptacles, benches and sidewalks.
- Strawberry (Lawrence County)—\$100,000 to develop new park adjacent to city hall including a play structure with a fall zone, pavilion with tables, barrier-free parking and access.
- Waldenburg (Poinsett County)—\$100,000 to construct new park on property adjacent to city hall to include a playground, half-court basketball court, pavilion and barrier-free parking/access.
- Weiner (Poinsett County)—\$98,659.34 to replace existing outdated and deteriorated play area with new playground features, including fall zone surfacing and barrier-free parking and access to the existing pavilion and playground area at Weiner City Park.
- Wheatley (St. Francis County)—\$98,500 to replace the existing pavilion and deteriorated sidewalk, rewire site lighting, make drainage improvements and install fence around the sewer lift station at Wheatley City Park.
- Winslow (Washington County)—\$100,000 to build a walking trail and accessible parking pad at Winslow City Park.
- Wrightsville (Pulaski County)—\$100,000 to install a pavilion, sidewalks, play equipment, parking and fencing.

Outdoor Recreation Grants Program

The Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (ORGP) has provided \$50.3 million in matching grants since 1988 and \$14.3 million in FUN Park grants since 1991. These awards have helped cities and counties develop public outdoor recreation facilities. The ORGP resides within the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation and is tasked with the promotion and facilitation of public outdoor recreation in Arkansas. To help accomplish these goals, the ORGP offers technical and funding assistance for land acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation facilities to local governments throughout the state. Funding for matching and FUN Park grants is provided by a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax administered by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Visit adpht.arkansas.gov to learn more about the ORGP or call Matt McNair at 501-682-1227. 📞

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89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Please join us for the Arkansas Municipal League's 89th Convention, June 14-16, 2023. You may choose to attend in-person or virtually. Online registration at www.arml.org/reg for both options will close Thursday, June 1, at 5 p.m.

REGISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for all attendee types must be done online at www.arml.org/reg. Telephone registration will not be accepted. **On-site registration is not available.** No refunds will be given for any attendee type after Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. Deadline to transition from virtual to in-person or vice versa is Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5 p.m.

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

MEMBERS

Advanced Registration—**\$300.**

Must register before Friday, May 19, 2023, at 5 p.m.

*After May 19, 2023—**\$350.***

Registration for **guest/significant other** is **\$150.**

Non-Member/Other—\$400.

In-person attendee registration includes meals, activities and printed or digital version of the **2023 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities Handbook.**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL ATTENDEE TYPES:
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023, 5 P.M.**

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.
- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **Friday, June 2, 2023, at 5 p.m.**
- Hotel rooms are subject to an approximately 15% tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in accommodations.
- Hotel cancellations after Friday, June 2, 2023, will be charged for one night's stay, plus applicable taxes and fees.

ROOM RATES

MARRIOTT HOTEL (headquarters hotel)—\$156

501-399-8042 or 501-399-8075

<https://bit.ly/3yd4o5g>

CAPITAL HOTEL—\$200 **Sold Out**

501-374-7474

DOUBLETREE HOTEL—\$152

501-508-8148 or 501-508-8149

<https://bit.ly/3msYE4K>

WYNDHAM HOTEL—\$119

501-907-4845 or 501-907-4823

<http://bit.ly/3IQMVVf>



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Register online at www.arml.org/reg.

SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS & YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITIONS FOR 89TH CONVENTION

In preparation for the 89th Convention, the League is now accepting resolutions for consideration, as well as the names of elected officials who have served their city or town for 25 years.

RESOLUTIONS

The League is accepting resolutions for consideration at the 89th Convention. Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2022-2023 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 88th Convention.

Resolutions can be emailed to Sheila Boyd at sboyd@arml.org, or mailed to:

89th Convention Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Resolution deadline: Friday, May 12.

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 1998? The League would like to know. The League will give special recognition to **elected city and town officials** who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 89th Convention, June 14-16.

To submit names, please contact Sheila Boyd at 501-537-3785 or sboyd@arml.org; or write to P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR, 72115-0038.

Years of Service deadline: Friday, May 5.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 89th Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities. In-person exhibitors will also have a virtual exhibit booth on the event's Attendee Hub and app. You may also choose to be a virtual-only exhibitor.

To guarantee your firm's exhibit booth, contact the League immediately to reserve your space. Your name will be added to the list of exhibitors, and we will reserve a space for your exhibit when you arrive.

The cost this year is \$800 for a 10x10 exhibit space. The cost for a virtual-only exhibit space is \$800. We cannot guarantee in-person space for companies that do not register before Thursday, June 1.

If you did not receive an exhibitor invitation by email, or for more information on how to register, please contact Tricia Zello at 501-374-3484, ext. 285, or tzello@arml.org.

The Arkansas Municipal League 89th Convention



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

1:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Osage & Caddo Rooms, SCC

REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)

1:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

Governor's Halls I-III, SCC

MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/RENEW ACQUAINTANCES

3:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

Fulton Room, SCC

INTERIM CITY, COUNTY & LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

****3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.**

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

LEGISLATIVE DEBRIEFING OF THE 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M.

Governor's Halls I-III, SCC

BREAK

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

****UNDERSTANDING OPIOID ABATEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

5:30 P.M.-6:30 P.M.

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

Wally Allen Ballroom, SCC

OPENING NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET

***Municipal officials and municipal personnel will be scanned for one (1) hour of continuing education certification credit at the conclusion of the Resolutions Committee at 6:30 p.m. Three (3) hours of continuing education certification credit is offered during the 89th Convention.*

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center

Tentative Agenda



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Thursday, June 15, 2023

7:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.	REGISTRATION (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE)	Osage & Caddo Rooms, SCC
7:00 A.M.-8:30 A.M.	HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFET	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
7:00 A.M.-7:30 A.M.	VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION	Fulton Room, SCC
7:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.	MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/RENEW ACQUAINTANCES	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
8:45 A.M.-10:30 A.M.	OPENING GENERAL SESSION	Governor's Hall IV, SCC
10:30 A.M.-11:00 A.M.	BREAK	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.	**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), TITLE II	Governor's Halls IV, SCC
12:00 P.M.-1:30 P.M.	SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS LUNCH	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center		

The Arkansas Municipal League 89th Convention



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS Round 1

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

1. COMMUNITY COALITIONS AND THE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

2. TOP 10 LEGAL FAQs

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

3. BEST PRACTICES: SECURING YOUR MUNICIPALITY'S DATA

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

4. FOIA—LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND DISCUSSION OF UPDATES

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

5. IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

6. HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN ASSIST THE UNSHELTERED POPULATION

1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

7. THE STATUS OF BROADBAND IN ARKANSAS

2:30 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

BREAK

Governor's Halls I-III, SCC

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center

Tentative Agenda



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS Round 2

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

1. HOW TO SET AND HOLD CIVIL PUBLIC MEETINGS

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

2. HOW TO IMPLEMENT YOUTH COUNCILS IN MUNICIPALITIES

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

3. GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

4. BEST PRACTICES: MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS—WHAT HAS CHANGED?

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

6. STATE AID STREET PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY FUNDING INITIATIVE

3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

7. DRUG TESTING—HOW DO CITIES LEGALLY AND EFFECTIVELY TEST EMPLOYEES?

4:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M.

BREAK

Governor's Halls I-III, SCC

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center

The Arkansas Municipal League 89th Convention



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS Round 3

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

1. BEST PRACTICES: HUMAN RESOURCES

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

2. WAYS PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS CAN ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

3. MUNICIPAL PLANNING—TOP 10 FAQs AND HIDDEN PLANNING STATUTES

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

4. BEST PRACTICES: LOSS CONTROL

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

5. BEST PRACTICES: SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

6. BEST PRACTICES: ANIMAL CONTROL

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

7. BEST PRACTICES: CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE PLANS

4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Governor's Hall IV, SCC

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Visit some of central Arkansas' finest restaurants.

MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center

Tentative Agenda



89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Friday, June 16, 2023

7:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.	EXHIBITS OPEN	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
<i>(Exhibit Hall will close at 10:30 a.m. for the remainder of the Convention.)</i>		
7:00 A.M.-8:15 A.M.	BUFFET BREAKFAST	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
7:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	Osage Room, SCC
8:30 A.M.-9:00 A.M.	INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAGUE'S NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH FORGE INSTITUTE AND THE ARKANSAS CYBER DEFENSE CENTER	Governor's Hall IV, SCC
9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M.	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	Governor's Hall IV, SCC
10:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.	BREAK	Governor's Halls I-III, SCC
10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.	**INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAGUE'S INTERACTIVE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Governor's Hall IV, SCC
11:45 A.M.-1:15 P.M.	**NEW OFFICERS' AND AWARDS LUNCHEON	Grand Ballroom, MH
<i>**Municipal officials and personnel must attend the 89th Convention to receive three (3) hours of continuing education credit. Scanning for the final hour of continuing education credit will take place at the conclusion of the New Officers' and Awards Luncheon.</i>		
MH = Marriott Hotel, SCC = Statehouse Convention Center		



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

A windshield survey can document land uses, housing conditions, historic features, capital improvement needs and other issues important to planning.

Tools for planning. Part 2: Information

By Jim von Tungeln

In the last issue, we discussed the first step in urban planning: form a planning commission. This month, we’re getting into the second step, which is to put that planning commission to work. But, at what? And *with what*?

Our state planning statutes are the answer to the first question. The planning commission begins by preparing plans. Actually, the first step requires preparation of a planning area map, one that shows the general location of streets, public ways, public property and the boundaries of the area within the territorial jurisdiction for which the commission will prepare plans, ordinances and regulations (A.C.A. § 14-56-412). This map may include the corporate limits and from one to three miles beyond, depending on the city’s population.

Recommendation: Recent fiddling with the statutes describing territorial jurisdiction resulted in some tedious statutory language. Seek professional guidance in establishing this boundary.

Having completed the planning area map and duly recorded it, the fun starts. Now the planning commission must study the nature and needs of the area and determine the next best actions. This can prove more complicated than simply reviewing what another city did. Each city is unique.

The planning statutes prescribe the next step. The commission shall prepare a work program and make comprehensive studies of the present conditions and the probable future growth of the municipality and its neighboring territory (A.C.A. § 14-56-412 [b]).

Nothing in the statutes and little in planning literature define what “comprehensive studies” means. Traditionally, the commission makes an initial determination of what is happening in the planning area when the planning process commences. This involves an analysis of the existing infrastructure and land uses.

Determining existing land use is a requirement that can make experienced urban planners shudder at the memory of “windshield surveys” to determine the use of every parcel of land in the planning area. In olden days, these on-the-road observations might have occurred during an Arkansas August prior to efficient air conditioning systems in vehicles. Despite the discomfort, if done properly by experienced personnel, it is still the most dependable method.

Modern technology can simplify the process. Satellite imagery and aerial photographs available via computers help. Depending on the county, assessor’s records may provide an instant proxy for land use as

depicted by tax records. Those records may require some calibration but could certainly make things easier.

There is also public information available through the 911 datapoint program, which has a 95 percent accuracy standard. Property involved is classified as residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, recreational or other. This is suitable for many cities as an existing land use database.

Rob Middleton, a third-generation urban planner and GIS practitioner, notes: “The 911 datapoint program provides a good starting point for developing a land use database. Because the points are based exclusively on structures, they won’t cover all lands. In addition, a farmhouse is considered residential, while a barn or shop on the same property would be considered agricultural. This can be fine-tuned, but one needs to be careful about it.”

A zoning map to be prepared during a later phase may require different classifications and legal descriptions. Those beginning a planning process must remember two things: A land use plan represents municipal policy. A zoning map represents municipal law.

Population trends and forecasts play an important part in preparing urban plans. This can pose a complex and tricky exercise, as triggering events can be so unpredictable in our modern world. This is particularly true of projections. One primer described them as a “best-guess” calculation of the number of people expected to be alive at a future date, based on assumptions about population size, births, deaths and migration.

In addition to projections, characteristics of the population can determine certain aspects of planning. A city with an elderly population will place different demands upon utilities, transportation and community facilities than one dominated by working-age residents.

Physical characteristics play a key role in planning. One city in our state lies completely in a designated floodplain while serving as a supply center for an area that helps to feed the world. Another is bounded by such rough topography that physical expansion is nigh impossible even though the visually appealing topography is a draw for new residents.

Most cities and towns exist somewhere in between.

Analysis of the utility system requires a professional. Whether a city manages its utilities directly or appoints a special body, plans will depend on the availability of utilities at affordable rates. Each unit of infrastructure added to accommodate growth requires a perpetual cost to all residents.

An understanding of the socioeconomic profile of a community is essential to embarking on plan formation. Are there jobs? What kind of jobs are there? How much do they pay? Are the workers skilled? What is the educational level of the workforce? What are the age

groups of the workforce? How has the age-group profile changed in recent years?

Increasingly, there is an alarming gap between the cost of housing and household income in our cities. Planning must take this into account although remedies are scarce. Also, a city in the farming region must deal with a farming industry that may now need one worker for every six it once needed to farm the same area. For a state where cities rely on sales tax revenues to exist, permanent residents are vital. When those residents disappear, hard times appear.

One of the more critical areas of needed information in city planning is housing. Without permanent residents, there can be no city. Without housing, there can be no permanent residents. Teachers use a Latin phrase, *sine qua non*, literally, “without which, not.” The concept requires data and asking tough questions.

Such questions must be specific to the city or town. What types and quantities of housing exist in our community? What is the age of existing housing? Is there housing to accommodate the workforce or must workers commute from other areas? What is the cost of housing for the workforce? How many new units appear annually? Are we losing housing for permanent residents to short-term rentals?

Other types of data and information will guide planning efforts. This includes the collection of permissive and restrictive state and federal laws and judicial findings. At the state level, most planning statutes exist in A.C.A. §§ 14-56-401 through 426. Unfortunately, a sizable number of other laws affecting planning in Arkansas cities are scattered elsewhere throughout the statutes. That is when an experienced professional can provide valuable assistance.

This all suggests a couple of major points concerning urban planning in our state. It is not a simple undertaking. It costs money. A city not willing to invest in preparing and maintaining plans should take this into account.

Those not willing to pay the cost of preparing plans and developing and updating regulations to carry out those plans, as well as the subsequent cost of enforcement, might proceed with caution. The perils of doing it haphazardly, poorly and void of monetary “skin in the game” may be greater than the perils of not doing it at all. 🏠



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.

Moving the needle on childcare access in Arkansas

By Abayi Ibro Ayoubu

In its August 17, 2022, Household Pulse survey, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that in the previous four weeks, 2,055 Arkansas adults left a job in order to care for children. In that same period, nearly 34,000 working Arkansans used paid leave time to care for children, and nearly 35,000 took unpaid leave to provide childcare. Many parents, particularly women, are forced to leave the workforce to care for children, reducing their earning potential and limiting their ability to contribute to the economy. This in turn affects businesses that rely on a stable and reliable workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic shed a new light on the childcare crisis that has been brewing in many countries for years. While this crisis is not new, the pandemic exacerbated it, highlighting the need for affordable and accessible childcare options. As we continue to adjust to the “new normal,” most businesses and schools have reopened their doors, but parents are still struggling to find affordable, accessible options and are facing daunting waitlists.

The childcare crisis, especially in Arkansas, is a significant concern for parents and caregivers. The state has been grappling with a shortage of quality and affordable childcare options for years. This problem is especially acute in rural areas, where there are fewer childcare facilities.

Leaders must understand that childcare challenges have a negative impact on the state’s economy, and it is critical to ensure that solutions are developed so that parents can provide the highest quality of life possible for their children. To address the childcare shortage in Arkansas, policymakers and community leaders must work together to find solutions that support both providers and families.

The Newport Economic Development Commission understands this pressing reality and is taking a proactive approach to addressing the state’s childcare shortage by offering home-based childcare training to community members. “We have a desperate need for additional childcare slots in Jackson County,” said Jon Chadwell, the commission’s director of economic development. “And it is an economic development issue because if people don’t have a place to care for their children, it’s hard for them to go to work, and they might decide to work in a surrounding county where childcare is

available in the same place they’re working. Parents don’t typically like to leave their kids 30 or 40 miles away from where they’re working.”

The home-based childcare training program is a promising step toward addressing Newport’s childcare shortage. By supporting home-based providers, the program can increase access to quality childcare options for families while also promoting economic growth in the region.

To make this happen, Chadwell’s office teamed up with the White River Planning and Development District and ChildCare Aware of North Central Arkansas to provide tools and training to interested community members.

“There is a shortage of infant and toddler care, not only locally, but statewide and nationally,” said ChildCare Aware’s Debbie Mize. “Everyone at ChildCare Aware is here to help anyone that would be interested in opening family childcare in their home.”

Mize and her team are working with community leaders to provide the opportunity and tools for anyone who wants to open a family childcare center in their home. “There’s a whole team at every ChildCare Aware center across the state that works closely with state agencies and other partners to support caregivers in any way that we can,” she said. “Participants in our programming also receive guidance on how to become licensed childcare providers, which will allow them to access state funding and other resources to support their businesses.”

Home-based childcare providers offer a valuable service to their communities while also earning income and building their own businesses. The programming provided through ChildCare Aware is one step in the right direction to move the needle on childcare in a positive direction.

To learn more about home-based childcare and licensing or other resources, visit ChildCare Aware online at www.childcareaware.org/state/arkansas. 📍



Abayi Ibro Ayoubu is the assistant director for the University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED). Learn more about CCED at www.uca.edu/cced.

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Donating blood is a simple way to help save lives

By Kyle J. Kalkwarf, M.D., FACS

The blood that courses through our bodies performs many essential functions, including circulating oxygen, nutrients, hormones and electrolytes. It also removes carbon dioxide and waste products while helping to maintain our body temperature, fight infection and stop bleeding after injuries.

Unfortunately, despite extensive efforts, no artificial blood products have been developed to replicate the many vital functions of blood. As a result, human blood transfusions are frequently necessary to treat bleeding from traumatic injuries or illnesses that inhibit the production of blood.

Because donated blood has a limited shelf life, when the need for blood products exceeds donations, blood shortages can occur, and patient care suffers. This frequently occurs after holiday breaks and when winter weather limits donor turnout at blood drives in our state and nationwide.

Therefore, if you are an eligible donor, I encourage you to consider donating blood to provide life-saving assistance to your community.

Traumatic injury

When you think of patients whose survival depends on donated blood, those with traumatic injuries are often the first who come to mind. Millions of Americans are treated for traumatic injuries in hospital emergency rooms each year, and trauma is the leading cause of death in Americans 46 years or younger. For these patients, bleeding is the most common cause of preventable death.

Type O blood donors are particularly important because their blood can be used for anyone regardless of the patient's blood type. This "Universal Type" blood is used to treat patients who arrive at a hospital with uncontrolled bleeding.

Severely injured trauma or pregnant patients may require the transfusion of dozens of units of blood to stay alive, and situations involving multiple patients can quickly deplete a hospital's or a region's blood supply. Because there is no way to predict when these situations will occur, it is essential that we continually replenish the blood supply to ensure that it is available when patients need it the most.

Treating illnesses

Transfusions also play an essential role in treating patients with cancer or chronic illnesses. Some forms of

cancer interfere with the body's ability to produce red cells, white cells or platelets. In other cases, cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy can affect the bone marrow, where blood cells are produced, leading to dangerously low cell counts.

Other medical conditions, such as anemia and sickle cell disease, reduce the number of healthy red blood cells, hindering the bloodstream's ability to carry oxygen. Patients with these conditions often receive donated blood to reduce the likelihood of severe complications.

Most hospitalized patients and those with chronic illnesses requiring recurring transfusions receive donated blood that matches their blood type. This means health providers need a steady blood supply that includes all types, reflecting the variety seen in our population.

Importance of giving

Donating blood is quick and convenient. The entire donation process—including an interview about your health history and a recovery period afterward—takes about an hour, but it only takes 8-10 minutes to draw a pint of blood.

A rewarding aspect of blood donation is that you can save more than one life each time you give. Most blood drives seek donations of whole blood, which is then separated into components—plasma, platelets and red blood cells. Health providers distribute these blood products to the patients who need them. Additionally, whole blood is now being transfused to severely injured trauma patients at several Arkansas hospitals specializing in trauma care. This ensures that these seriously injured patients benefit from all the vital components of blood, which has recently been shown to increase survival.

About 6.8 million Americans donate blood each year, according to the Red Cross. However, this number is decreasing every year, and we continue to have an ongoing and urgent need to ensure we have enough blood available to care for sick and injured patients. Whether you're a regular donor or are ready to give for the first time, this simple act will make a big difference for others. 🏥



Kyle J. Kalkwarf, M.D., FACS, is an assistant professor of surgery and the trauma medical director for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Division of Acute Care Surgery.

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Initiative touts health benefits of community trees

By Krissy Kimbro

Trees are vital components of an aesthetically pleasing community, and local leaders are placing an increasing amount of economic value on trees due to their ability to provide energy-saving shade. In a growing number of cities and towns, trees are being included in community gardens and food forests, valued for their production of fruit and nuts and for their ability to provide shade for those coming to partake of the garden's bounty. All these factors, in addition to physiological and mental health benefits, are positive impacts to the overall health of those living, working and playing in areas where trees are growing. The Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives initiative (healthytreeshealthylives.org) envisions a world "where everyone understands the connection between trees, forests and health—and makes daily and long-range decisions based on improving community health through this connection."

Community health rooted in its connection to trees

The Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives initiative was created by members of the Southern Group of State Foresters and has grown into a nationwide campaign that includes numerous resources for municipalities, health care providers and individuals. With a mission to increase the collective understanding of health being connected to forests and to the trees in and around communities, Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives is leading a social change in the United States to alter people's behavioral patterns, cultural values and norms with an inherent understanding and appreciation of the ways health is positively affected by trees and forests.

Four key values are vital to the mission of Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives are:

- Awareness—helping people understand and appreciate how forests positively affect human health.
- Access—increasing people's access and demand for proximity to trees and forests for health reasons.
- Action—building an engaged community who actively plan and manage trees and forests specifically for health reasons.
- Added value—creating an environment in which people want to learn more about forests and all the other benefits they provide.



PHOTOS BY KRISSY KIMBRO

Mature shade trees like the ones in Walnut Ridge City Park beckon community members to spend time outdoors pursuing active lifestyles or enjoying the mental health benefits of spending time in nature.

Health benefits of trees

Shade that protects against the harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet rays is one of the most widely recognized health benefits of trees, but research provides evidence of a multitude of additional ways trees can improve human health physically, mentally and even financially.

Shade from a tree's canopy can reduce temperatures by up to 20 degrees, making it safer and more comfortable to be outdoors. Green spaces and tree-lined streets encourage walking, outdoor activities and healthier lifestyles. Fruit and nuts from trees contain antioxidants, which boost immune systems and provide healthy fats to help decrease bad cholesterol levels. Trees help filter particles out of the air, decreasing the risk of respiratory illnesses. Urban trees are found to promote higher birth weights and support good health in newborn babies. Exposure to trees relaxes and restores the mind, lowering blood pressure and heart rates.

Students who are exposed to nature are more relaxed and attentive, which improves learning and performance in school. Trees absorb pollutants, providing the opportunity to breathe clean, fresh air, which in turn helps the brain release serotonin and boost energy and mood. Exposure to forests decreases mental fatigue by relaxing and restoring the mind and provides a sense of security.

Health care providers have even begun to prescribe spending more time among trees as a way to help improve health. Being able to see trees while recovering from surgery—as through a hospital window—increases a patient's pain thresholds, requiring them to request fewer pain relievers and shortening their recovery time.

Being in and around nature helps improve the body's immune system and boosts disease-fighting cells, which shortens healing time from a multitude of injuries and diseases.

Fewer illnesses, shorter recovery times and decreased visits to medical providers for the treatment of physical and mental ailments all come with a cost-saving benefit at the individual level. On a larger scale, the positive health effects of air pollution removal by community trees and forests across the United States has been valued at around \$6 billion annually.

Practical takeaways

Interested in learning more about the positive health benefits of trees? Want to find ways to promote the connection between community greenspaces and community health? Curious about the scientific data backing up the claims listed above? Visit healthytreeshealthylives.org for success stories, community resources and more. 🌳



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



Perritt Primary School in Arkadelphia utilizes their tree-covered playground for recess, physical education and special events such as field days, all of which provide an opportunity for students to increase physical activity and benefit from spending time outdoors. Students who have the opportunity to spend time in nature during the school day are more relaxed and attentive in the classroom, which improves their learning and performance. (And lowers stress levels for the adults dedicated to helping them learn!)

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Development isn't bad, is it?

By Cody Sims, EI

What comes to mind when you hear “land development?” When I graduated college in 2020, I had absolutely no idea what land development was. As fate would have it, I now work in land development.

Growing up in a small town in central Arkansas, my family despised “big city” development. I’d say their hate mainly stemmed from change and emotion tied to the property being developed. It might also have something to do with the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets you’ll ever see in your life over the peaks of corn stalks as they softly sway in the wind.

Land development has a permanent impact on the community around us. Luckily, we have engineering practices, rules and regulations such as The Clean Water Act in place to help us sustain and be good stewards of this beautiful planet.

Only two or three types of people benefit from development: the developer, the clientele and eventual users of that development. From the big developer’s perspective, it’s an investment. A million dollars now can turn into \$3 million in a few years. You won’t get that from your 401(k). But more times than not, smaller developers and business owners just want a new place to hang their hat. They have outgrown their existing facility and need to upgrade.

Regardless of the type of developer, our job as land development specialists is to make their dream a reality. I’ve learned that developers don’t throw a dart at a map and say, “Let’s do it here.” They think strategically, asking questions like, “How will this impact the community in general? How will this blend in with the surrounding development or lack thereof?” Answering these questions involves a lot of research.

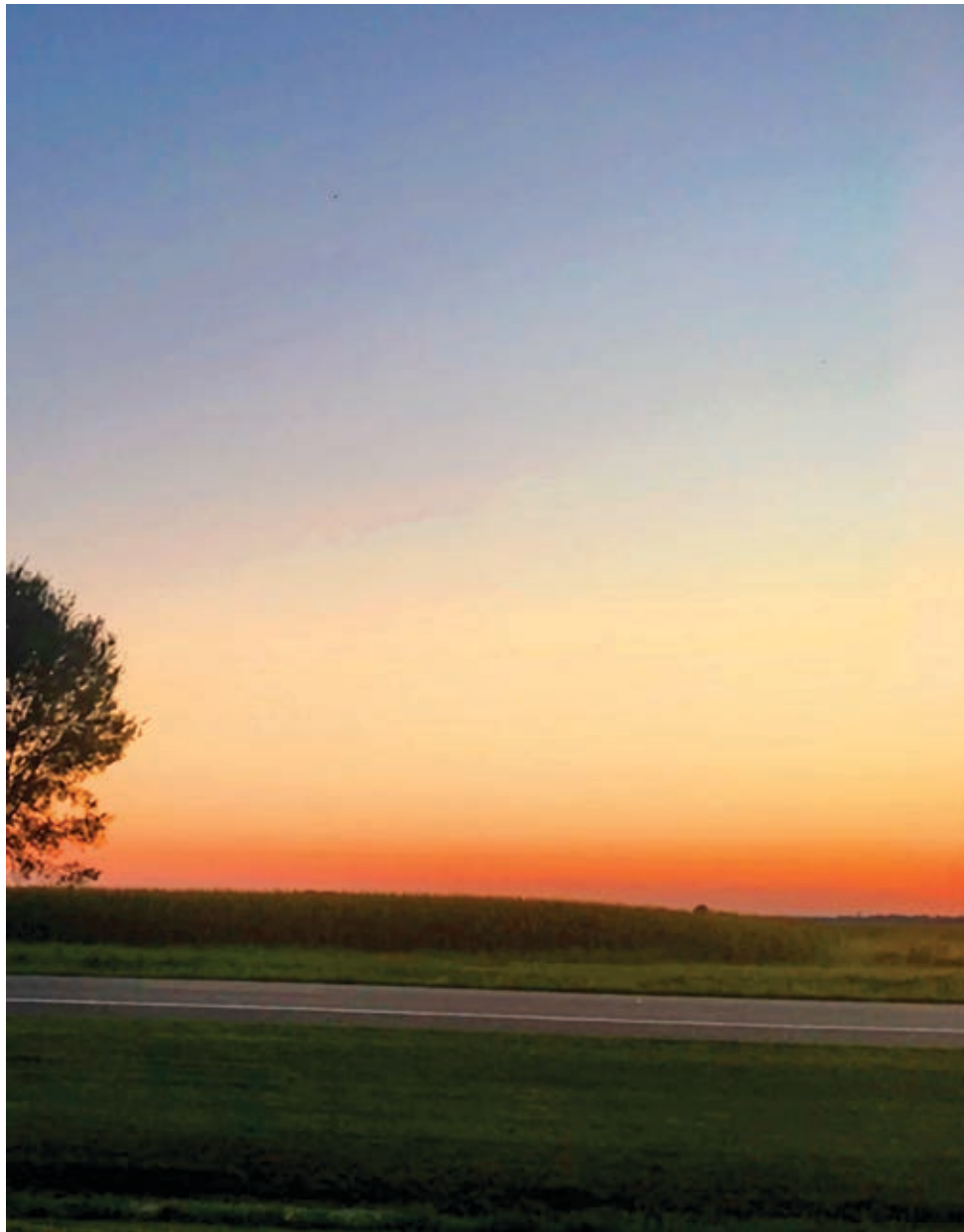


PHOTO BY CODY SIMS

New development has a lasting impact on our communities and the environment, and it must be pursued with great care.

Typically, a developer will have a team that investigates a property. We call them SIRs, or Site Investigation Reports. They help ensure the intended use by the developer will fit within the city’s plan and complies with zoning regulations. This is why we do not typically see residential housing next to industrial complexes.

Sometimes, however, a property can be in a grey area. For example, let's play developer/engineer. We want to put a 10,000-square-foot office building next to an apartment complex in a property currently zoned for something similar to an apartment complex (something like RMF-24: Residential Multi-Family 24 units per acre for the city of Fayetteville). You will need to go through a formal process called "rezoning" to ensure your project can be constructed on this property. It is always a good idea to meet with the city beforehand (called a pre-application meeting) to iron out any issues or gather some much-needed intel on how the city would feel about this development. It only takes a couple hours and can save some headaches down the road.

Developers and engineers must be vigilant and continue to be conscious of our impact on the world around us. Many decisions have to be made when someone wants to dig up a pasture and slap a 40-acre subdivision down in its place. Those decisions need to be made wisely. We have the ability every day to influence our cities and towns in a positive way. Let's be good stewards of this great gift given to us. Challenge yourself to think of new, innovative ways to make your hometown a better place not only for us, but for those after us. 🏡



Cody Sims, EI is a project designer working in our Land Development Department in our Fayetteville office. Contact Cody by phone at 479-443.2377 or email him at csims@mce.us.com.

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2022/2023 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
January	\$6.744	\$6.66	\$0.485	\$0.49	\$1.961	\$1.96
February	\$6.648	\$6.986	\$0.486	\$0.348	\$0.964	\$0.963
March	\$5.544	\$5.435	\$0.411	\$0.466	\$0.964	\$0.962
April	\$6.689		\$0.314		\$0.964	
May	\$6.636		\$0.433		\$0.964	
June	\$6.504		\$0.363		\$0.963	
July	\$7.289		\$0.407		\$3.463	
August	\$7.021		\$0.558		\$0.807	
September	\$7.212		\$0.639		\$0.963	
October	\$6.791		\$0.553		\$0.964	
November	\$6.509		\$0.749		\$0.96	
December	\$6.61		\$0.809		\$0.96	
Total Year	\$80.202	\$19.08	\$6.208	\$1.31	\$14.904	\$3.89

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
January	\$13,523,371.95	\$13,350,521.33	\$971,650.77	\$986,285.50	*\$3,933,044.80	*\$3,932,114.58
February	\$13,330,126.26	\$14,007,539.35	\$974,949.61	\$697,870.86	\$1,932,029.37	\$1,931,496.92
March	\$11,116,392.03	\$10,897,459.57	\$824,985.57	\$934,876.36	\$1,932,175.48	\$1,929,735.55
April	\$13,413,142.61		\$629,375.82		\$1,932,175.48	
May	\$13,306,592.12		\$868,435.30		\$1,933,337.16	
June	\$13,042,397.16		\$728,488.74		\$1,930,396.00	
July	\$14,616,346.04		\$816,970.67		** \$6,944,783.81	
August	\$14,078,419.61		\$1,119,657.38		\$1,619,187.98	
September	\$14,460,958.73		\$1,280,885.52		\$1,931,889.90	
October	\$13,617,712.35		\$1,108,417.65		\$1,932,525.04	
November	\$13,058,733.21		\$1,502,715.99		\$1,931,894.66	
December	\$13,262,227.20		\$1,622,364.84		\$1,932,114.58	
Total Year	\$160,826,419.27	\$38,255,520.25	\$12,448,897.86	\$2,619,032.72	\$29,885,554.26	\$7,793,347.05

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

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

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2023 with 2022 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$82,120,928	\$79,509,192	\$69,845,325	\$67,235,746	\$151,966,253	\$146,744,937	\$411,348	\$7,996
February	\$93,165,528	\$90,989,478	\$77,635,228	\$75,394,289	\$170,800,757	\$166,383,767	\$511,512	\$20,291
March	\$79,341,600	\$71,237,219	\$67,618,149	\$60,990,849	\$146,959,750	\$132,228,069	\$515,250	\$13,414
April		\$70,722,847		\$61,123,066		\$131,845,913		\$23,045
May		\$85,621,568		\$73,394,919		\$159,016,487		\$45,685
June		\$79,693,712		\$68,198,650		\$147,892,362		\$66,577
July		\$82,774,267		\$69,831,518		\$152,605,785		\$100,880
August		\$84,835,673		\$72,760,141		\$157,595,815		\$133,556
September		\$83,485,245		\$72,292,734		\$155,777,979		\$262,246
October		\$84,245,742		\$72,984,249		\$157,229,991		\$283,743
November		\$80,956,997		\$70,372,855		\$151,329,852		\$299,643
December		\$82,190,001		\$70,976,959		\$153,166,960		\$400,114
Total	\$254,628,056	\$976,261,941	\$215,098,703	\$835,555,977	\$469,726,759	\$1,811,817,918	\$1,438,111	\$1,657,190
Averages	\$84,876,019	\$81,355,162	\$71,699,568	\$69,629,665	\$156,575,586	\$150,984,827	\$479,370	\$138,099

March 2023 Municipal Levy Receipts and March 2023 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2022 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garland	6,608.72	1,627.67	Morrilton	183,760.51	170,156.83	Wilmot	3,928.61	3,466.39
Alexander	188,182.70	175,802.59	Gassville	26,404.49	21,466.65	Morrison Bluff	3,517.65	3,185.43	Wilson	9,523.55	10,954.24
Alma	295,152.28	275,684.35	Gentry	148,094.30	148,122.79	Mount Ida	25,604.54	22,766.37	Wilton	972.11	972.11
Almyra	3,450.15	2,477.68	Gilbert	299.32	251.00	Mountain View	1,112,006.66	1,014,145.75	Winslow	10,146.83	7,765.09
Alpena	8,078.75	6,305.62	Gillett	14,840.84	12,502.69	Mountain Home	209,682.85	185,780.04	Wynne	167,136.41	157,079.46
Altzheimer	4,131.28	3,455.73	Gillham	9,012.52	7,823.34	Mountainburg	20,996.23	18,641.13	Yellville	60,305.70	52,928.74
Altus	8,062.61	7,134.74	Gilmore	665.39	580.80	Mulberry	54,913.45	37,173.28	COUNTY SALES AND USE		
Amity	17,894.61	16,372.46	Glenwood	99,052.38	81,541.42	Murfreesboro	34,177.72	28,494.31	Arkansas County	353,438.27	337,973.41
Anthonyville	1,962.75	1,291.23	Goshen	34,057.39	37,314.58	Nashville	134,924.24	126,125.04	Ashley County	267,903.15	234,743.48
Arkadelphia	448,125.40	491,298.61	Gosnell	18,786.00	13,457.09	Newport	239,208.15	214,601.87	Crossett	64,685.24	56,678.84
Ash Flat	133,223.25	121,428.58	Gould	18,839.89	13,690.41	Norfolk	7,481.14	5,557.54	Fountain Hill	1,448.78	1,269.46
Ashdown	210,941.51	169,284.25	Grady	9,590.21	5,510.43	Norman	4,121.74	3,389.09	Hamburg	34,019.45	29,808.70
Atkins	80,379.80	85,454.33	Gravette	126,946.10	95,995.83	North Little Rock	3,714,407.36	3,271,188.67	Montrose	3,259.75	2,856.27
Augusta	25,920.01	25,998.61	Green Forest	110,580.46	118,169.83	Oak Grove	1,402.44	1,068.82	Parkdale	2,307.31	2,021.73
Austin	52,367.04	45,601.22	Greenbrier	326,857.30	325,984.97	Oak Grove Heights	12,433.44	11,015.50	Portland	4,359.75	3,820.12
Avoca	14,096.86	9,789.35	Greenland	48,205.95	46,494.77	Ola	21,171.94	17,672.37	Wilnot	5,580.48	4,889.75
Bald Knob	62,736.86	55,757.81	Greenwood	327,105.95	285,608.66	Oppelo	4,456.59	3,528.13	Baxter County	648,393.50	582,378.54
Barling	89,644.98	72,985.83	Greers Ferry	31,547.24	25,173.68	Osceola	150,952.84	109,552.75	Big Flat	1,672.55	1,502.26
Batesville	815,348.70	763,808.13	Guion	8,239.70	1,868.34	Oxford	3,480.18	2,740.65	Briarcliff	4,485.48	4,028.80
Bauxite	29,575.24	24,798.28	Gum Springs	7,973.75	657.52	Ozark	206,720.54	192,277.36	Cotter	16,839.54	15,125.05
Bay	11,919.89	9,317.67	Gurdon	28,420.12	31,514.80	Palestine	32,735.83	26,469.83	Gassville	41,262.57	37,061.50
Bearden	10,140.79	12,479.86	Guy	9,488.54	9,058.67	Paragould	10,560.18	9,596.74	Lakeview	14,729.84	13,230.15
Beebe	229,547.91	207,320.67	Hackett	10,264.19	9,635.22	Paris	91,364.25	78,440.22	Mountain Home	243,755.17	218,937.70
Beehiveville	125.84	183.45	Hamburg	108,700.15	89,482.85	Parkdale	849.12	551.40	Norfork	8,837.91	7,938.09
Bella Vista	638,566.75	566,100.54	Hampton	10,766.19	7,497.21	Parkin	6,046.56	4,262.20	Salesville	8,989.96	8,074.66
Belleville	2,998.46	2,384.65	Hardy	28,219.88	29,760.78	Patmos	156.23	146.05	Benton County	1,052,857.51	948,693.44
Benton	2,171,084.89	1,883,927.99	Harrisburg	102,166.21	79,370.26	Patterson	1,061.87	864.56	Avoca	11,446.40	10,313.96
Bentonville	4,584,808.66	3,947,229.54	Harrison	836,506.15	741,472.63	Pea Ridge	108,706.80	103,334.09	Bella Vista	707,561.61	637,559.27
Berryville	308,030.38	297,909.77	Hartford	8,493.13	7,115.87	Perla	2,908.10	2,137.49	Bentonville	1,273,065.61	1,147,115.34
Big Flat	421.87	349.73	Haskell	59,281.58	46,785.72	Perryville	30,167.31	26,515.07	Cave Springs	129,153.97	116,376.17
Black Rock	10,140.48	7,078.51	Hatfield	7,675.07	5,342.48	Piggott	83,860.58	74,880.24	Centerton	418,181.51	376,808.88
Blewins	4,687.14	3,441.28	Havana	4,584.26	3,438.46	Pine Bluff	1,499,061.44	1,580,683.37	Decatur	41,672.43	37,549.58
Blue Mountain	347.27	280.05	Hazen	87,467.10	89,930.18	Pineville	2,154.55	2,650.89	Elm Springs	10,929.32	9,848.03
Blytheville	483,796.92	384,613.52	Heber Springs	193,946.25	170,112.88	Plainview	6,574.06	20,107.43	Garfield	13,937.82	12,558.88
Bonanza	3,434.25	2,393.30	Hector	9,167.37	8,396.04	Pleasant Plains	11,861.85	10,711.43	Gateway	10,247.70	9,233.85
Bono	24,782.86	21,769.85	Helena-West Helena	263,376.34	243,445.24	Plumerville	15,780.60	12,257.81	Gentry	89,079.81	80,266.73
Booneville	148,822.60	140,457.29	Hermitage	14,862.08	11,968.41	Pocahontas	330,013.72	306,592.42	Gravette	83,368.36	75,120.34
Bradford	20,852.04	17,923.73	Higginson	2,728.17	2,280.21	Portia	5,767.91	2,860.78	Highfill	37,300.70	33,610.37
Bradley	5,708.33	4,910.26	Highfill	64,415.51	58,787.28	Portland	7,896.58	5,270.09	Little Flock	71,804.44	64,700.49
Branch	2,181.19	2,289.52	Highland	42,481.47	24,200.49	Pottsville	46,799.61	37,454.54	Lowell	231,254.94	208,375.82
Briarcliff	2,247.76	2,021.25	Holly Grove	9,766.23	8,760.25	Prairie Grove	243,803.92	197,772.18	Pea Ridge	154,162.12	138,910.15
Brinkley	278,827.75	153,978.41	Hope	229,164.21	204,267.80	Prescott	70,207.82	41,416.98	Rogers	1,643,111.12	1,480,550.54
Brookland	116,100.78	86,103.56	Horatio	8,900.53	7,373.05	Pyatt	1,264.52	1,319.13	Siloam Springs	406,312.04	366,113.71
Bryant	1,448,484.20	1,351,357.68	Horsehoe Bend	36,310.02	30,615.34	Quitman	33,244.69	26,763.81	Springdale	284,232.75	256,112.29
Bull Shoals	35,434.91	31,939.77	Hot Springs	2,154,583.53	1,991,488.16	Ravenden	4,339.99	3,773.23	Sulphur Springs	11,305.36	10,186.88
Cabot	1,118,021.75	1,018,080.12	Hoxie	20,184.70	19,282.15	Reactor	40,185.54	32,278.37	Boone County	535,289.61	488,736.14
Caddo Valley	51,660.18	58,283.13	Hughes	8,401.25	5,144.91	Redfield	45,247.67	42,879.45	Alpena	5,024.36	4,587.40
Calico Rock	43,755.87	48,297.16	Humphrey	2,656.69	2,181.47	Rison	19,865.18	17,673.36	Bellefonte	7,120.74	6,501.45
Camden	368,981.38	305,558.97	Huntington	8,574.91	4,956.49	Rockport	30,298.84	19,369.50	Bergman	7,380.62	6,738.73
Caraway	8,131.06	6,391.82	Huntsville	192,834.24	191,780.07	Roe	794.80	759.72	Diamond City	13,115.32	11,974.70
Carlisle	64,596.39	56,372.12	Imboden	12,883.59	9,903.86	Rosston	3,704.64	NA	Everton	1,801.84	1,645.14
Cash	2,647.20	4,680.37	Jacksonville	836,261.74	733,307.48	Rudy	12,731.31	12,136.92	Harrison	226,425.53	206,733.59
Cave City	30,964.26	28,928.65	Jasper	42,392.15	43,203.51	Russellville	1,264,699.62	1,184,263.67	Lead Hill	4,747.16	4,334.30
Cave Springs	150,219.41	138,165.45	Jennette	305.85	312.05	Salem	35,571.72	28,146.80	Omaha	2,217.65	2,024.78
Cedarville	10,125.38	8,624.92	Johnson	143,928.71	125,842.29	Salesville	5,177.85	3,173.13	South Lead Hill	1,489.98	1,360.40
Centerton	500,313.47	422,713.43	Joier	4,902.36	3,035.46	Scranton	6,020.29	5,688.53	Valley Springs	3,170.55	2,894.81
Charleston	46,194.35	38,523.99	Jonesboro	2,026,463.78	1,769,568.23	Searcy	1,075,792.28	894,700.05	Zinc	1,593.93	1,455.32
Cherokee Village	27,776.92	24,450.25	Judsonia	19,406.67	12,922.60	Shannon Hills	17,040.24	20,094.04	Bradley County	159,203.15	157,093.45
Cherry Valley	368,377.77	4,586.97	Junction City	6,833.09	5,585.56	Sheridan	273,711.84	286,716.20	Banks	921.84	909.63
Chidester	5,212.88	4,522.82	Keiser	5,312.54	4,931.88	Sherill	1,068.95	1,173.66	Hermitage	5,562.84	5,489.12
Clarendon	53,147.19	44,221.12	Keo	2,008.81	1,602.59	Sherwood	1,189,610.99	1,045,228.93	Warren	5,779.35	57,013.68
Clarksville	560,106.36	494,659.13	Kibler	5,925.56	5,040.99	Shirley	3,877.87	3,186.14	Calhoun County	128,676.42	125,183.60
Clinton	119,363.10	110,512.52	Kingsland	2,595.08	1,786.86	Siloam Springs	908,996.22	833,145.78	Hampton	36,673.76	35,678.26
Coal Hill	6,873.69	5,599.00	Lake City	16,028.07	15,141.72	Sparkman	6,874.87	5,180.39	Harrrell	6,521.16	6,344.14
Concord	3,319.11	2,334.18	Lake Village	82,751.23	80,355.91	Springdale	3,728,810.27	3,266,891.59	Thornton	10,527.02	10,241.26
Conway	3,476,134.28	3,134,036.37	Lakeview	6,453.85	4,892.79	Springtown	437.61	273.12	Tinsman	1,552.64	1,510.52
Corning	81,783.49	67,632.20	Lamar	27,012.52	26,755.55	St. Charles	3,973.46	4,163.96	Carroll County	196,823.81	182,539.92
Cotter	15,514.42	17,725.75	Leachville	25,986.45	13,899.93	St. Paul	4,352.15	3,780.00	Beaver	512.16	474.99
Cotton Plant	1,370.96	2,559.64	Lead Hill	9,944.15	6,241.60	Stamps	16,007.16	12,981.80	Blue Eye	351.63	326.11
Cove	12,596.77	14,096.90	Lepanto	22,359.40	35,622.66	Star City	56,115.24	51,747.11	Holiday Island	18,338.53	17,007.59
Crawfordsville	14,550.80	13,439.05	Leslie	7,904.86	6,924.19	Stephens	6,141.00	6,336.87	Chicot County	149,668.53	145,637.57
Crossett	259,192.30	225,421.05	Lewisville	13,572.67	15,687.35	Strong	11,379.99	9,539.21	Dermott	20,714.98	20,157.07
Damascus	29,559.74	9,871.15	Lincoln	99,939.22	88,455.74	Stuttgart	676,940.45	700,173.27	Eudora	17,711.77	17,234.74
Danville	49,728.66	47,977.27	Little Flock	20,887.25	16,917.18	Subiaco	10,360.20	7,700.71	Lake Village	21,165.96	20,595.92
Dardanelle	193,506.44	179,977.27	Little Rock	5,808,876.88	5,350,839.48	Sulphur Springs	4,079.12	3,326.42	Clark County	541,211.74	526,230.82
Decatur	24,584.36	16,272.02	Lockesburg	7,562.66	6,148.02	Sunmit	5,704.04	5,125.36	Clay County	99,438.59	93,782.49
Delight	4,858.30	4,654.09	London	9,555.85	NA	Sunset	7,499.23	6,855.55	Corning	28,365.82	26,752.36
De Queen	149,845.68	147,917.31	Lonoke	304,865.82	261,209.73	Swifton	6,				

Plumerville	10,635.93	10,175.83	Nashville	97,364.31	98,482.13	Texarkana	267,971.66	238,388.15	Scott County	149,680.62	125,501.83
Craighead County	388,233.11	336,673.49	Toilette	4,337.21	4,387.00	Mississippi County	1,935,262.17	1,175,156.83	Wansfield	9,978.71	8,366.79
Bay	38,916.66	33,748.30	Independence County	577,934.01	560,805.71	Bassett	3,501.64	2,126.31	Maldron	39,914.83	33,467.15
Black Oak	4,833.47	4,191.55	Batesville	169,714.75	164,684.90	Birdsong	903.65	548.73	Searcy County	96,946.33	110,799.75
Bono	49,973.47	43,336.71	Cave City	2,760.08	2,678.28	Blytheville	378,572.26	229,881.92	Gilbert	257.52	294.32
Brookland	84,305.60	73,109.33	Cushman	6,566.57	6,371.96	Burdette	3,953.46	2,400.68	Leslie	3,714.23	4,244.98
Caraway	23,503.51	20,382.10	Magness	3,336.36	3,237.48	Dell	5,478.37	3,326.65	Marshall	13,163.23	15,044.22
Cash	5,808.46	5,037.06	Moorefield	1,910.83	1,854.20	Dyess	9,573.03	5,813.07	Pindall	940.94	1,075.40
Egypt	2,344.13	2,032.81	Newark	17,895.04	17,364.68	Etowah	7,172.71	4,355.51	St. Joe	1,277.69	1,460.28
Jonesboro	1,630,018.97	1,413,542.94	Oil Trough	3,427.36	3,325.78	Gosnell	82,175.54	49,899.77	Sebastian County	382,041.44	352,100.84
Lake City	48,251.68	41,843.58	Pleasant Plains	5,338.18	5,179.97	Joiner	14,063.03	8,539.55	Barling	100,507.36	92,630.58
Monette	31,241.20	27,092.19	Southside	64,892.27	62,969.05	Keiser	21,207.50	12,877.91	Bonanza	12,337.48	11,370.59
Crawford County	569,266.72	519,159.07	Sulphur Rock	9,235.67	8,961.95	Leachville	57,579.36	34,964.14	Central City	9,689.23	8,929.88
Alma	81,720.14	74,527.02	Izard County	63,158.42	54,698.55	Luxora	26,601.15	16,153.12	Fort Smith	1,873,573.13	1,726,741.01
Cedarville	19,977.59	18,219.14	Jackson County	326,855.18	276,581.29	Manila	103,976.06	63,137.79	Greenwood	200,005.85	184,331.38
Chester	2,020.21	1,842.38	Amagon	899.72	761.33	Marie	3,049.81	1,851.95	Hackett	16,477.99	15,186.61
Dyer	10,830.55	9,877.23	Beedeville	1,095.31	926.84	Osceola	196,995.38	119,622.28	Hartford	10,487.91	9,665.97
Kibler	14,099.35	12,858.31	Campbell Station	3,025.14	2,559.84	Victoria	564.78	342.95	Huntington	10,298.75	9,491.63
Mountainburg	7,407.42	6,755.41	Diaz	15,960.22	13,505.36	Wilson	21,631.09	13,135.13	Lansada	51,493.73	47,458.16
Mulberry	21,647.07	19,741.66	Grubbs	3,924.86	3,321.17	Monroe County	NA	NA	Manfield	14,376.21	13,249.54
Rudy	1,823.80	1,663.26	Jacksonport	1,955.91	1,655.07	Montgomery County	211,840.69	186,513.25	Midland	4,771.05	4,397.14
Van Buren	325,730.18	297,058.95	Newport	104,380.34	88,325.50	Black Springs	853.95	751.85	Sevier County	567,411.28	546,692.80
Crittenden County	1,025,061.57	867,103.79	Swifton	9,557.87	8,087.77	Glenwood	551.51	485.57	Ben Lomond	1,910.44	1,840.68
Anthonyville	1,297.07	1,097.19	Tuckerman	22,258.24	18,834.68	Mount Ida	8,859.68	7,800.43	De Queen	83,308.64	80,266.70
Clarkedale	3,228.25	2,730.79	Tupelo	912.76	772.37	Norman	2,695.26	2,373.02	Gilham	2,142.42	2,064.19
Crawfordsville	4,438.85	3,754.84	Weldon	743.24	628.93	Oden	1,601.15	1,409.71	Horatio	12,554.29	12,095.88
Earle	17,592.06	14,881.19	Jefferson County	496,836.66	488,651.02	Nevada County	142,653.94	111,924.40	Lockesburg	8,105.71	7,809.73
Edmondson	2,334.72	1,974.95	Alzheimer	9,996.19	9,831.50	Bluff City	13,586.61	10,659.95	Sharp County	298,918.04	275,153.24
Gilmore	1,521.89	1,287.38	Humphrey	3,073.54	3,022.90	Bodcaw	1,393.15	1,093.05	Ash Flat	14,493.51	13,341.24
Horseshoe Lake	2,536.48	2,145.62	Pine Bluff	592,489.88	582,728.31	Cale	840.50	659.44	Cave City	24,627.65	22,669.68
Jennette	1,020.36	863.13	Redfield	21,615.33	21,259.21	Emmet	4,570.91	3,586.28	Cherokee Village	55,865.12	51,423.69
Jericho	941.57	796.48	Sherrill	761.20	748.66	Prescott	35,703.78	28,012.72	Evening Shade	5,944.60	5,471.99
Marion	132,127.78	111,767.43	Wabbaseka	2,585.22	2,542.63	Rosston	3,131.71	2,457.10	Hardy	10,020.90	9,224.21
Sunset	1,591.07	1,345.89	White Hall	80,156.27	78,835.65	Willisville	1,704.02	1,336.94	Highland	13,899.05	12,794.04
Turrell	4,470.55	3,781.66	Johnson County	166,499.91	162,152.22	Newton County	54,296.03	48,499.94	Horseshoe Bend	184.00	169.37
West Memphis	235,585.61	199,282.84	Clarksville	123,443.90	120,220.50	Jasper	4,696.38	4,195.05	Sidney	2,717.53	2,501.48
Cross County	547,742.95	507,092.39	Coal Hill	10,790.32	10,508.56	Western Grove	3,039.35	2,714.89	Williford	1,118.16	1,029.26
Cherry Valley	7,759.74	7,183.85	Hartman	6,790.01	6,612.70	Ouachita County	427,954.06	495,222.23	St. Francis County	452,263.62	392,405.22
Hickory Ridge	3,076.90	2,848.55	Knoxville	8,684.89	8,458.11	Bearden	10,398.03	8,882.70	Caldwell	11,291.56	9,979.10
Parkin	10,715.18	9,919.96	Lamar	22,620.20	22,029.54	Camden	142,195.77	121,473.28	Colt	7,335.76	6,364.86
Wynne	112,199.05	103,872.23	Lafayette County	107,969.90	100,901.03	Chidester	3,390.08	2,896.04	Forrest City	325,853.14	282,725.52
Dallas County	166,273.37	162,296.37	Bradley	3,819.02	3,568.99	East Camden	10,692.82	9,134.53	Hughes	26,438.80	22,939.54
Desha County	126,454.21	115,122.08	Buckner	1,455.90	1,454.03	Louann	2,050.13	1,751.36	Madison	19,002.88	16,487.80
Arkansas City	5,779.71	5,261.76	Lewisville	8,628.16	8,063.27	Stephens	10,317.64	8,814.03	Palestine	12,668.58	10,991.86
Dumas	61,501.64	55,990.20	Stamps	11,862.54	11,085.90	Perry County	193,834.57	161,833.70	Wheatley	6,985.24	6,064.74
McGehee	59,165.17	53,863.11	Lawrence County	403,832.41	334,637.42	Adona	1,150.78	960.79	Widener	5,307.82	4,605.28
Mitchellville	4,503.87	4,100.26	Alicia	1,292.25	1,070.83	Bigelow	2,718.62	2,269.79	Stone County	190,449.34	168,600.82
Reed	1,998.30	1,819.23	Black Rock	5,331.66	4,418.10	Casa	926.80	773.79	Fifty Six	1,940.92	1,718.25
Tillar	491.89	447.81	Hoxie	23,477.37	19,454.62	Fourche	432.51	361.10	Mountain View	35,341.88	31,287.42
Watson	2,843.74	2,588.90	Imboden	5,783.49	4,792.52	Houston	1,104.44	922.10	Union County	552,147.97	628,086.17
Drew County	500,993.91	439,154.95	Lynn	2,331.47	1,931.98	Perry	2,023.51	1,689.45	Calion	15,250.09	17,347.46
Monticello	141,340.10	123,894.13	Minturn	786.19	651.48	Perryville	10,604.14	8,853.47	El Dorado	676,082.71	769,065.96
Tillar	2,343.95	2,054.63	Portia	3,831.56	3,175.04	Phillips County	187,284.92	170,019.08	Felsenthal	2,897.07	3,295.51
Wilmar	6,613.28	5,796.99	Powhatan	939.82	778.78	Elaine	939.62	8,505.83	Huttig	19,749.55	22,465.76
Winchester	2,293.72	2,010.60	Ravenden	3,849.64	3,190.02	Helena-West Helena	177,107.37	160,779.80	Junction City	18,645.45	21,209.81
Faulkner County	1,067,786.55	976,558.93	Sedgwick	1,472.98	1,220.59	Lake View	6,190.83	5,620.10	Norphet	24,010.44	27,312.65
Enola	2,804.14	2,564.56	Smithville	786.19	651.48	Lexa	3,941.00	3,577.68	Smackover	62,247.51	70,808.56
Holland	5,167.38	4,725.90	Strawberry	2,421.84	2,006.87	Marvell	16,330.24	14,824.75	Strong	16,299.95	18,541.72
Mount Vernon	1,269.80	1,161.31	Walnut Ridge	48,653.65	40,317.05	Pike County	222,730.77	191,156.91	Van Buren County	274,300.98	255,259.32
Twin Groves	2,795.32	2,556.50	Lee County	38,100.95	31,839.74	Antoine	1,539.17	1,320.98	Clinton	36,714.92	34,166.21
Wooster	9,188.41	8,403.39	Aubrey	934.57	780.99	Daisy	1,198.65	1,028.73	Damascus	3,585.16	3,326.28
Franklin County	251,137.00	280,902.64	Haynes	1,055.72	882.23	Delight	3,922.85	3,366.76	Fairfield Bay	28,491.01	26,510.20
Altus	8,124.27	8,134.21	LaGrange	449.98	376.03	Glenwood	27,323.75	23,450.39	Shirley	3,629.06	3,377.13
Branch	3,236.98	3,620.64	Marianna	30,935.93	25,852.16	Murfreesboro	20,363.41	17,476.74	Washington County	2,055,002.34	1,853,846.31
Charleston	28,301.71	31,656.13	Moro	1,531.65	1,279.95	Poinsett County	301,792.53	268,248.25	Elkins	72,594.88	65,488.85
Denning	3,159.22	3,533.66	Rondo	1,410.50	1,178.72	Fisher	2,176.06	1,934.19	Elm Springs	38,212.07	34,471.64
Ozark	38,734.41	43,325.36	Lincoln County	190,586.87	141,476.55	Harrisburg	26,741.38	23,769.07	Farmington	152,848.29	137,886.58
Wiederkehr Village	546.79	611.58	Gould	5,556.44	4,124.66	Lepanto	20,938.55	18,611.23	Fayetteville	1,893,452.53	1,708,109.98
Fulton County	300,011.13	246,482.00	Grady	2,556.13	1,897.47	Marked Tree	27,635.98	24,564.24	Goshen	42,363.81	38,216.98
Ash Flat	846.18	695.2	Star City	18,211.40	13,518.69	Trumann	89,448.22	79,506.04	Greenland	24,446.86	22,053.85
Cherokee Village	6,237.74	5,124.78	Little River County	449,815.17	323,839.05	Tyrone	8,655.89	7,693.79	Johnson	72,735.95	65,616.12
Hardy	262.09	215.33	Ashdown	66,544.43	47,907.86	Waldenburg	640.73	569.51	Lincoln	46,233.38	41,707.78
Horseshoe Bend	82.37	67.67	Foreman	15,257.90	10,984.74	Weiner	7,821.73	6,952.33	Prairie Grove	141,985.26	128,086.89
Mammoth Spring	6,956.61	5,713.39	Ogden	2,054.84	1,472.88	Polk County	316,731.34	291,283.95	Springdale	1,513,226.29	1,365,102.57
Salem	11,726.65	9,634.33	Wilton	4,482.11	3,226.84	Cove	8,620.92	7,928.30	Tontitown	86,682.55	78,197.54
Viola	2,680.80	2,202.48	Winthrop	1,811.57	1,304.23	Graniss	13,404.32	12,327.38	West Fork	46,979.08	42,380.49
Garland County	2,281,028.99	2,533,824.95	Logan County	390,410.23	356,606.84	Hatfield	9,323.58	8,574.48	Winslow	7,356.24	6,366.17
Fountain Lake	14,695.29	7,799.24	Blue Mountain	1,028.50	939.45	Mena	151,094.94	138,906.66	White County	1,481,820.29	1,287,175.18
Hot Springs	782,305.15	266,910.02	Booneville	44,517.80	40,662.26	Vandervoort	3,107.86	2,658.16	Bald Knob	40,074.75	34,810.72
Lonsdale	3,186.56	1,691.20	Caulksville	1,799.88	1,644.04	Wickes	17,214.84	15,831.72	Beebe	134,064.50	116,454.40
Mountain Pine	18,098.42	9,605.38	Magazine	8,648.77	7,899.92	Pope County	446,155.75	414,293.92	Bradford	10,773.47	9,358.31
Grant County	269,327.60	275,601.57	Morrison Bluff	911.63	832.69	Atkins	49,520.90	45,984.41	Garner	3,352.80	2,914.40
Greene County	427,302.74	384,664.50	Paris	37,119.59	33,905.62	Dover	23,158.25	21,504.42	Georgetown	1,287.10	1,118.03
Delaplaine	895.11	805.79	Ratcliff	1,951.82	1,782.82	Hector	7,118.95	6,610.56	Griffithville	2,462.96	2,139.44
Lafe	5,846.18	5,262.82	Scranton	2,863.44	2,615.52	London	16,212.51	15,054.71	Higgins	11,202.50	9,730.99
Marmaduke	16,951.13	15,259.67	Subiaco	4,686.71	4,280.90	Pottsville	54,388.11	50,504.03	Judsonia	29,460.19	25,590.43
Oak Grove Heights	15,440.63	13,899.90	Lonoke County	843,785.47	768,369.36	Russellville	501,271.36	465,473.49			

MUNICIPAL MART

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR—Siloam Springs functions under the city administrator form of government, employs approximately 300 FTEs, and operates on a FY 2023 budget of approximately \$80 million. Under the direction of the board of directors, the city administrator is responsible for implementing board policy, managing city operations, oversight of the city's budget, and supervisory authority over department directors. A detailed job description can be found on the city's website at www.siloamsprings.com/jobs.aspx. Applicants must agree to reside in city after hire; must possess a master's degree (M.A.) or equivalent; or eight years' experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary Range: \$112,500 - \$168,750. The city offers a generous benefit package including but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 401(a), vacation and sick leave. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, or can be accessed on our website. Completed applications may be submitted via email to: humanresources@siloamsprings.com or by mail to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Siloam Springs, AR 72761. For further information please call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com.

CITY MANAGER—Texarkana, Arkansas, seeks applicants for the position of city manager. City offers competitive pay and a great benefit package. Job objective: to plan and manage all operations of the city in accordance with policies set by the city 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. In collaboration with the mayor and board of directors, creates and leads the implementation of goals and objectives for the city. Delegates to department directors the responsibility for attaining their portion city's goals and objectives and ensures integrity and innovation as critical organizational values. Requires bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration or a related field, five years' experience of progressively responsible municipal work experience at the level of city manager, deputy city manager, assistant city manager, or other senior city management official, or as a private industry senior executive officer in an organization of comparable complexity. Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered. Must possess a valid Arkansas Class D (Non-Commercial Vehicle) driver's license before employment and maintain licensure for the duration of employment in this position. For a complete job description or to submit applications and resumes, email Heather Buster at Heather.Buster@expresspros.com. Upon receipt of email, candidates will be contacted immediately or within 24 hours.

CIVIL ENGINEER—The city of Sherwood is in search of a civil engineer, who is responsible for overseeing the design and construction of roads, bridges, waterways, sewage treatment plants and other types of infrastructure. Their duties include using software programs to design structural blueprints, adhering to construction laws and environmental constraints, and visiting construction sites to monitor the building process. Baccalaureate degree in the engineering field, or equivalent technical degree required; BSCE or MSE desired; a minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in managing a professional engineering function is desired; must possess a Professional Engineer's License and maintain licensure throughout employment in this position. Wastewater management experience is a plus and state Wastewater II License is also preferred. Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) preferred. Must possess a valid Arkansas Class D driver's license before employment and maintain licensure for the duration of employment in this position. For more information, please call the Sherwood Human Resources Department at 501-833-3708 or visit www.cityofsherwood.net.

DEVELOPMENT COUNTER PLANNER—The city of Hot Springs seeks applicants for the position of development counter planner. Salary: \$20.15 per hour plus full benefits. Must have HS diploma or equivalent; broad knowledge of planning, zoning and development; and familiarity with construction terminology and standards. Equivalent to a four-year college degree, plus four years related experience and/or training, and one to six months related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. American Institute of Certified Planners certification preferred. In the event the applicant does not possess these requirements, the position may be filled as a Planner I (Paygrade 11, \$17.31) DOQ. This position solves problems and smooths the path from pre-application to final approvals. Under general supervision and/or direction, performs research on prior land use actions, advises applicants and citizens on current zoning procedures, and reviews, refers and approves minor building permits for remodeling, decks, pools, and other accessory structures. Submit cover letter and/or resume along with a city application to: City of Hot Springs, Human Resources Department, Attn: Alisha Gruszka, 133 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, AR 71901; or email to AGruszka@cityhs.net. Applications may be completed or printed from our website at www.cityhs.net/jobs. Open until filled.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM ENGINEER—Hope Water & Light (HWL) in Hope, Arkansas, has the following position open for immediate employment: electric system engineer. Completion of a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or related area required. Must have knowledge in mathematical, electrical theory and computer skills at a level necessary to accomplish the job. Knowledge of management practices, regulatory requirements and industry practices pertaining to public power preferred. Must be able to perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodations. HWL offers an excellent benefit and salary package. Resumes should be submitted to: HR Dept. P.O. Box 2020, Hope, AR 71802. Open until filled. Priority given to those applying by March 16. HWL is an EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR—The city of Benton seeks applicants for the position of human resources director. The human resources director is responsible for the overall administration, coordination and evaluation of all human resources. Qualifications: bachelor's degree in human resources, business administration or related field; 10-plus years in progressively responsible leadership roles preferred; previous public administration experience preferred; SPHR preferred. For a complete job description, email CFO Mandy Spicer at mandy.spicer@bentonar.org or call 501-381-3710.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR—The city of Hot Springs seeks applicants for the position of human resources director. Starting salary: \$78605 - \$97,661 DOQ plus full benefits. Must have a HS diploma or equivalent; graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's in organizational management, public administration, business administration or other related field; at least five years directing the human resource function within a comparable municipal entity or business; or any equivalent combination of education and experience: Must possess a valid DL and a clean driving record. Considerable knowledge of the principles of human resource management; considerable knowledge of practices, terminology and requirements of a wide variety of occupations; considerable knowledge of municipal budgeting processes with emphasis on personnel costs, including salaries and all related benefits; working knowledge of local government structure and procedures; skill in planning, organizing and directing the work of others; skill in developing and implementing various personnel policies and procedures; ability to interpret and apply regulations and policies to administrative procedures; ability to organize, appraise and evaluate the effectiveness of various policies and procedures; ability to anticipate, recognize and correct procedural problems; ability to prepare and maintain accurate and timely records, reports and other documents; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships; ability to effectively communicate and present information in a clear and concise manner, both verbally and in writing; ability to work independently and to make sound judgments and decisions. Submit cover letter and/or resume along with a city application to: City of Hot Springs, Human Resources Department, Attn: Alisha Gruszka, 133 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, AR 71901; or email to AGruszka@cityhs.net. Applications may be completed or printed from our website at www.cityhs.net/jobs. Open until filled.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR—The city of Rogers is searching for the next director of our parks and recreation departments, to lead the community into the next generation of our well-established programs and facilities. This position reports directly to the mayor, with 64 direct reports across three departments, and a total budget of \$7.7 million. The city offers one of the most extensive benefit programs in the region, including affordable medical, dental and vision coverage, in addition to employer paid life and disability coverage. The position is APERS eligible. The expected starting salary range is between \$100,726 to \$113,316 per year. The director plans, organizes and administers a comprehensive program to provide year-round leisure, recreation and parks programs within the municipal park system including Lake Atalanta, Railyard Bike Park, athletic playing fields/complexes and trail system. Also provides oversight of the cemetery and recycling center. Work includes maintaining the recreational infrastructure, support of the community's interests in outdoor activity, and adjusting the recreational facilities and programs to meet new recreational activities and changing demographics. The overall objective is to create opportunities in the community for citizens to have a healthier lifestyle. A college degree in parks, recreation, tourism, leisure or equivalent field with experience is required. Extensive experience in personnel management and facility/construction management strongly preferred. View the full description and apply at www.rogersar.gov/jobs.

POLICE OFFICER—Are you looking for a small-town vibe? Are you willing and ready to serve your community with pride and joy? Do you want that feeling of warming the hearts of the citizens in your community, while serving and protecting it? If this is you then Kensett is your home! We are hiring a certified full-time police officer for the city of Kensett. It includes the following benefits: \$16.50 an hour, accumulated sick time, 2 weeks vacation (occurring more over time), paid LOPFI, paid holidays, paid Individual Insurance, take-home car within 10 miles. To apply please contact Angel Wells at cityofkensett@gmail.com, or come by Kensett City Hall and fill out an application, 202 NE 1st Street, Kensett AR, 72082.

POLICE OFFICER—The city of Berryville is accepting applications for the position of full-time police officer. The job description and applications can be picked up at the Berryville Police Department at 303 East Madison Avenue, Berryville, AR 72616, or by calling 870-423-3343. Starting pay with no experience or certification is \$22.09/hr. Benefits include retirement, vacation time, sick leave and insurance. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

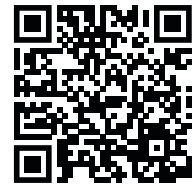
WATER/WASTEWATER/STREET/GENERAL MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE—The city of Weiner is looking for a full-time employee to work in the water/sewer/street department and as a general maintenance worker. Needs to have HS diploma or GED, drivers license, some general experience operating equipment, including bob truck, backhoe, mowers, etc. You will be required to juggle several different jobs for the city and be flexible to change. The city offers vacation, sick pay, retirement, health care after a period of employment. You will have city truck to drive while on duty and possibly take home. You will need to be able to be on call at nights and weekends every other week and weekend. The city will encourage and pay for you to get your water/wastewater license, may be contract with you and the city for paying for license. You will need to be able to work in and around the public and fellow employees and follow our guidelines about conduct. Starting pay will be \$15.00/hr. plus time and a half on overtime. Pay will be looked at in 90 days of employment and then every year going forward. If you are interested, or want to know more about this position, please contact Mayor Jeremy Kimble at 870-684-2284 or email at mayorsoffice@cityofweiner.com.

FOR SALE—2013 Ford Explorer XLT FWD. 97,361 miles – 8263 miles as patrol car. Approximately 8000 miles on new tires. Low profile light bar. Siren with P/A. Stalker Dualka antenna rebuilt radar with forks. Motorola CM 300-D radio and antenna. Motorola CP 100-D handheld radio with charger. Asking \$12,00 as is, \$10,000 less police gear. Location – Greenway, AR. Contact: Julie B. Hicks 870-631-1216 or Steve Faris 870-634-7299. Email: Cityofgreenway@outlook.com

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