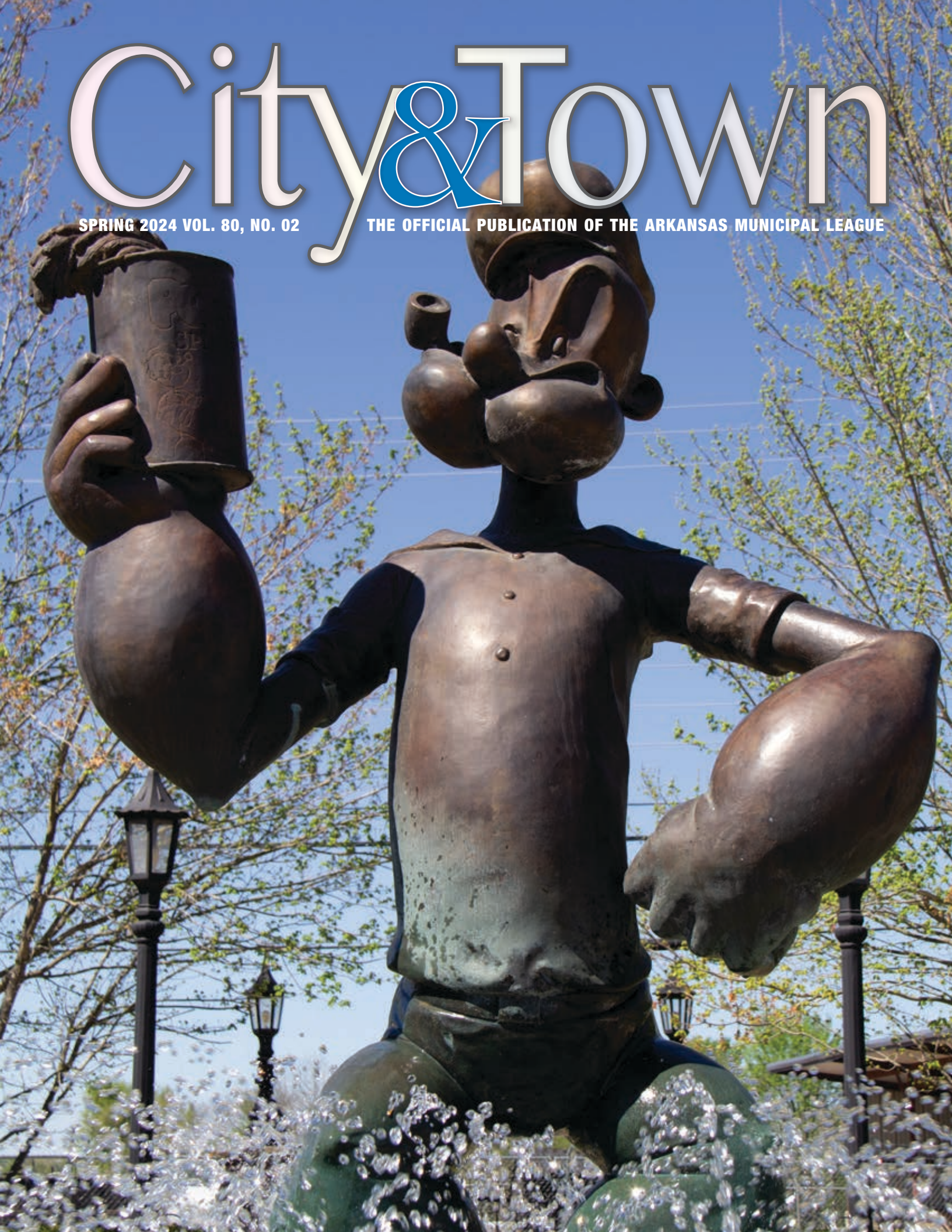


City & Town

SPRING 2024 VOL. 80, NO. 02

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—Popeye may have said “I yam what I yam,” but it was another food, spinach, that helped put Alma on the map, and the downtown statue of the famous sailor pays homage to that history. Read about Alma and the other Arkansas cities marking their sesquicentennials or centennials this year, starting on page 26. Read also about the National League of Cities’ Congressional City Conference, the mayor of Chester’s efforts to revive her hometown, and see photos of the celebration of the Vietnamese lunar new year in Bryant, all in this issue. And if you haven’t yet registered for the League’s fast-approaching 90th Convention, get the information you need and a preview of the agenda starting on page 34.

Features

20 NLC takes local issues to D.C.
The National League of Cities is celebrating its centennial this year, and in March more than 3,000 municipal leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., to hear from President Biden and members of his administration on issues like infrastructure and workforce development, and to schedule meetings with their congressional delegates to share with them the issues and challenges facing their hometowns.

24 Bryant rings in the Year of the Dragon
On February 4 the community center at Bishop Park in Bryant was filled with the sights, sounds and smells of Têt, the annual celebration of the Vietnamese lunar new year.

26 Birthdays abound!
Alma, Charleston and Prescott celebrate their sesquicentennials in 2024, and Norphlet marks 100 years of incorporation. Read about the events and people that shaped these cities and towns over the years and make each a unique part of our state’s history.

30 Reviving Chester
Starting with the purchase and restoration of the town’s oldest surviving building, Chester Mayor Lacey Hendrix is investing in her beloved hometown and envisions a future full of opportunity in the small Ozark Mountain community.

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Dear colleagues and friends,

It has been a whirlwind in my world, lately! How about yours?

One of the exciting things I can report on is the trip I took to the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., in March. It was my second time to attend this event, and what a terrific trip it was. Thanks to my involvement with our amazing League, I get how important it is to take the time for things like this.



It was especially great to take my seat on the two NLC committees on which I've been asked to serve this year. Given my background and current IT job, I am now on the Information and Communications Committee and the new Artificial Intelligence Committee. These two advisory groups are comprised of some incredibly talented tech folks and municipal government leaders, and I can't wait to learn from and with them. In each meeting, I did my best to let them know just how growth-oriented the technology sector in our state is, especially in the world of cybersecurity. Our partnership with the Forge Institute and many other efforts are already showing good results, and I'm honored to have seats at these important tables on behalf of you all. Other members of our delegation are also serving on different NLC committees and boards, and I want to thank each of them for taking the extra time to do that. We are making sure that Arkansas is well represented at the national level.

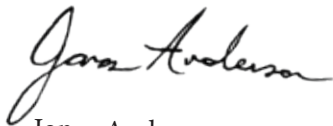
As I write this, we are two days away from the great solar eclipse! Of course, by the time you read this it will have come and gone. Was it a bust? Was there an overwhelming crush of visitors? Did the apocalypse get underway? Something tells me we landed somewhere in the middle of those three options. In all seriousness, I hope you and your community fared well and were able to take advantage of whatever opportunities came your way. In Cave City, civic groups held a few well-attended events during the weekend run-up to April 8, but as a city we simply encouraged everyone to get out in the community, grab some lunch from a local restaurant, and head to our beautiful city park to enjoy our 4 minutes and 9 seconds of totality together. Rather than organize a big event, we decided instead to do our best to just be present and enjoy it with family and friends. I can say that we are seeing an uptick in out-of-town visitors this weekend, with hotels and other lodging mostly sold out. You'll have to catch me after reading this to see how it all turned out.

The next big event for us will be the League's 90th Convention. What a milestone, friends! If you were able to attend the winter conference in January, you know that our League team tore the lid off and looked at everything with a fresh set of eyes. That turned out to be a great idea, and the feedback we received from everyone was overwhelmingly positive. Anything that maybe missed the mark was documented and will be improved upon in June. I sure hope you're making plans to attend because it's going to be a real party. Not only will we have great speakers, tremendous breakout sessions and opportunities to network with each other, but overall, it's just going to be a ton of fun! We will celebrate all that the League has done for cities and towns these past 90 years, and we'll also look ahead to what we can do together in the coming decades, Lord willing. If you're not registered to attend, please do so as soon as possible. Remember, it's also my birthday week and my wish is that you'll all be there. Unfortunately, this will be my last convention to preside as your League president. You know what they say about time flying by? It feels like I blinked and here it is winding down. But you can rest assured I plan to stay active and engaged going forward, because I just love the League and love you all as dear friends and colleagues. I can't have it any other way.

Finally, in Cave City we are so close to wrapping up the renovation projects that will see us move into "new" buildings for our city hall and police department! It has been a process, no doubt about it, but I have learned so much and our community has made so much progress by taking this on. We will finally have some places from which to do the daily business of our city that are worthy of the work and the people who are there doing it. We are saving some historic buildings in our oldest section of town and putting our local government operations right at the heart of Main Street. I love it! Once we have a firm end date, we will schedule a grand opening party and I'll send out information on that in case any of you would like to come and celebrate with us.

God bless you, friends. Stay strong out there. We are the doers and the change makers that our cities and towns need. Our role is not one of petty division and distraction, but of a continual heart for our people and the courage to do what needs to be done, in a way that nobody else can do it. We must simply do our best. Too much is at stake.

For greater communities and a greater state,



Jonas Anderson
Mayor, Cave City
President, Arkansas Municipal League

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Did You See What I Saw?!

As always, I strongly encourage you to read the column first and then the footnotes. Feel free not to, of course, but don't get mad at me when you have trouble following things. I want to put a smiley face here but I don't think the Editor or the Local Controller would find it appropriate! [Ed. Note: 😊]



Not surprisingly, I'm going to write about the historic eclipse we just witnessed. I don't really like to use the word epic¹ a great deal. It's overused these days and its impact has been diminished. In this instance, however, I can hardly think of a better term. The 2024 total solar eclipse was epic! It mesmerized and transfixed most of us regardless of our interest in astronomy, or the lack thereof. While I was excited about it, I must say I didn't get why folks would travel here from faraway lands to watch it. And by faraway lands I don't mean Oklahoma.² ³ I mean California,⁴ Maryland⁵ and Florida⁶ to name a few. Let's not forget England. That's the one across the pond, not the one down the road near Keo. I'm not kidding, Great Britain⁷ was in the house! Not my house. I meant it more as a euphemism for being in Arkansas. The Local Controller is somewhere between horrified and fractured. I believe I heard her mumble: "Really?! You already have three footnotes that are longer than the column! What's wrong with you? Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson?!⁸ You gotta be kidding me."

I'd better get back to the eclipse.⁹ According to Arkansas State Parks more than 200,000 visitors from 48 states and several countries visited the parks system.¹⁰ Of course that doesn't include those eclipse followers staying in hotels, short-term rentals and with friends and family. We hosted two couples from Alabama and New Mexico.¹¹ We don't have final numbers on visitors and sales taxes yet, but I feel certain there was a pretty good impact on the state. My oldest son Franz¹² runs a hotel in Little Rock and they were booked solid at rates substantially above the norm. I've heard the same about places in Russellville and Morrilton. I know several mayors who

¹ I must admit that I may have been a tad judgmental regarding the word epic after perusing Merriam-Webster for the definition and history of the word. Well, that didn't take long. The Local Controller just noted: "What?! You, judgmental? Say it ain't so!" I walked right into that. Score 1 for LC. Where was I? Oh yeah, M-W's information on the word epic. It originated from old English narrative poems of great deeds and heroes. Cue up the tales of Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, Robin Hood, Rob Roy, William Wallace, Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson and many, many others. It seems the modern use of the word is largely synonymous with outstanding, fabulous or impressive. Here's the humbling part: Outstanding originally meant something that stuck out or projected, fabulous was used in regard to fables, and impressive meant capable of being impressed. <https://armuni.org/4cYM8zS>

² Oklahoma was admitted to the Union on November 16, 1907, thanks in large part to it having been mostly freed of misfits, outlaws and ne'er-do-wells by Judge Isaac Parker and Marshall Bass Reeves. You may fondly remember the musical *Oklahoma* by Oscar Hammerstein II. Oscar wrote the book and the lyrics. A fella named Richard Rodgers wrote the music. They were known, of course, as Rodgers and Hammerstein. You may not recall fondly the tune "Boomer Sooner" if you've ever gone to a University of Oklahoma football game where they scored a great deal!

³ For you history buffs here's a couple of links for Oklahoma (<https://armuni.org/49zLHcd>), Parker (<https://armuni.org/3Qqypbx>), Reeves (<https://armuni.org/3JlFq9i>), Rodgers (<https://armuni.org/4aB5Cc5>), Hammerstein (<https://armuni.org/3xyCaop>), ne'er-do-wells (<https://armuni.org/3UUh8zsu>) and "Boomer Sooner" (<https://armuni.org/49BQBp6>).

⁴ California was admitted to the Union in 1850. The state has a rich and very long history. <https://armuni.org/3JpWknb>

⁵ Maryland was admitted to the Union in 1788. <https://armuni.org/4cXvWP5>

⁶ Florida was admitted to the Union in 1845. <https://armuni.org/44g6O2t>

⁷ The United Kingdom's history is complicated to say the very least. A couple of things are clear and easy to digest. Wales was joined to England in 1536 followed by Scotland in 1707 and Ireland (in part) in 1801. <https://armuni.org/4aMpMzO>

⁸ "No, no, no! Don't do it Mark!" Make that four footnotes! Here's some information on Horatio himself. While his fleet was victorious over Napoleon at Trafalgar, Nelson was shot and killed by a French sniper. He was also known as Viscount Nelson and Baron Nelson. <https://armuni.org/4cPsdmK>

⁹ <https://armuni.org/3VYxylC>

¹⁰ <https://armuni.org/4cXwRPx>

¹¹ Alabama was admitted to the Union in 1819, which was before they had good football teams. <https://armuni.org/3xMpwlK> New Mexico was admitted to the Union in 1912. I was a sophomore in high school. <https://armuni.org/3TXSC9w>

¹² Franz was named after my dad, Franz Ulmer Hayes. I sure miss him.

pushed out social media posts about the availability of local facilities for camping. They also reported pretty good turnouts.

We were fortunate to experience the eclipse on our pontoon boat on Lake Hamilton. What stunned me the most were the changes in colors, lighting and temperature as we moved through the event. I hadn't really thought much about it before experiencing it. As I said, I didn't understand why folks would travel from around the country and the world to experience it. I do now.¹³ It was both beautiful and eerie. I noticed primary colors were somewhat difficult to distinguish as the sky grew darker. The temperature dropped considerably. Silence ensued. Even the Canada¹⁴ geese¹⁵ got quiet after being really stirred up all morning leading up to the darkness. They scurried, flew and honked far more than normal. I watched our dog Olive throughout the day. She was on the boat but was unaffected. Frankly, she was way more engaged with our guests giving her snacks and belly rubs.

When darkness fell, we could hear hoots and howls across the water and yes, we joined right in. I also took note of all the automatic porch lights coming on from the surrounding condos and houses. And then the light came back slowly but surely and life started again. The entire experience, while short, was much more affecting than I expected or can fully describe. Marvelous really. Quite marvelous indeed.

I will say, LC outdid herself in the hostess department. She put together gift bags for our guests with eclipse T-shirts, commemorative cups, Moon Pies and other knickknacks. She also planned a lake snack and then lunch menu. The snack was really creative. She got small plastic tackle boxes and created a sticker for the lid saying *I tackled a total solar eclipse in Hot Springs, Arkansas!* Get it? Small tackle box with snacks! She just jumped back into the fray noting: "They get it! Move on big guy!" Ok, ok, ok. Moving on.

Total solar eclipses occur approximately every 18 months around the world but a particular spot will only see one every 375 years or so.¹⁶ Arkansas did get one in June of 1918, but it followed a different path across the state.¹⁷ The U.S. will next experience one on March 30, 2033, in northwestern Alaska.¹⁸ Northwestern Alaska in March doesn't sound appealing from a weather and comfort standpoint. After that, the next one is in August 2044 with the path of totality crossing Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.¹⁹ I'm 64 so I don't see a high probability of experiencing that one, and I'm not going to northwestern Alaska! On August 12, 2026, there's another one that will travel across Russia, Greenland, Iceland and Spain. LC just perked up. Seems Iceland and Spain are in our future. Totality will last only 2 minutes and 18 seconds, but there's another one in August 2027 that will be over 6 minutes. It'll cover Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia and the British Indian Ocean Territory. I had to look that last one up. It's due east from Kenya and Somalia approximately halfway between East Africa and Indonesia covering 640,000 square miles of ocean. There are 58 islands making up the archipelago of the territory. A quick check on my Google machine tells me it's hot in August but there are some tourist destinations in the territory. It's at least a 20- to 24-hour travel time so that's out. Oh, and the flights are expensive.

Seeing the eclipse was a great treat for all of us. I particularly enjoyed it given my newfound sight capabilities. I tore the retina in my left eye last September and had to have emergency surgery. The tale is quite entertaining. From over my shoulder I hear LC's melodious voice: "No it's not. Move on!" Fine, fine, fine. Moving on. Fairly typical after tearing a retina is that a cataract forms. That's what happened to yours truly. So, I went from blindness due to the torn retina to fuzziness due to the cataract. Yay me. I had cataract surgery a couple of weeks ago and let me tell ya, it's miraculous. I can see out of my left eye! I can see 20/25 as of the day I'm writing this column and the doc says he'll get me to 20/20! I get the right eye done (yes, I have a cataract in that eye as well) on April 22. Can't wait! Again, the surgeon says I'll be 20/20 for both eyes when it's all said and done. By the

¹³ Here's a great resource on what we just experienced. <https://armuni.org/3VYxyIC>

¹⁴ Canada gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1867. Canadians may be the nicest people on the face of the earth. <https://armuni.org/49wYIU0>

¹⁵ The geese, however, need to learn some manners from their human companions north of the U.S. border. They are territorial and LOUD! <https://armuni.org/4cXxetp>

¹⁶ <https://armuni.org/49BTKVR>

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Alaska joined the Union in 1959, the year before I was born! <https://armuni.org/49AXeYY>

¹⁹ In order, they joined the Union in 1889, 1889 and 1889. Sounds like they had a plan. Montana (<https://armuni.org/3xMt0Vm>), North Dakota (<https://armuni.org/49E3oHR>), South Dakota (<https://armuni.org/3UfIMRF>).

way, the surgeon reminds me of Doogie Howser.²⁰ Why are all these doctors so young?! “They aren’t. You’re old,” snickers the Local Controller. Good one, honey!

I’ve worn glasses since I was 19 years old. Now there will be no more fumbling around in the middle of the night looking for my specs to see what Olive²¹ is barking at. 20/20 here I come! A caveat: I may have to use readers, but hey that’s still better than not being able to see 3 feet in front of myself. Why do I mention my eyesight? “Ahem. Yes, why do you mention it?” says the little brunette with her arms crossed and toes tapping. Funny you should ask, honey. Two reasons. First, it made using the eclipse glasses much easier, albeit through one eye only since the right one is a fuzzy mess. The other reason is that it reminds me of the vision necessary to keep municipal government ahead of the curve. Here comes the eyeroll and a reluctant “nice save.”

LC and I split our time between two small condos, one in Little Rock and one in Hot Springs. As the day of the eclipse approached, I was impressed by the planning and vision of not only those two municipalities but all of those in the path of totality. From freshly kept parks grounds to porta-potties and everything in between, Arkansas’ cities and towns were ready. You did your homework by studying the previous fumbles in communities that weren’t prepared for the 2017 event. You saw the traffic jams, the dearth of sanitary facilities, and the lack of basic goods and services. You not only saw it, but you fixed it for Arkansas. What a great effort it turned out to be and a success beyond our wildest dreams. Y’all took it upon yourselves to think, plan and work to ensure Arkansas succeeded. Emergency services personnel were on call and ready to go. Streets and bridges cleared for traffic. Garbage receptacles galore adorned your locales. All in all, I’d call it A+ work on your part!

Once again, cities and towns have made Arkansas a great state. At its core, however, is your heart and passion for what you do. You love your municipality and it shows. Folks that visited our fair state from near and far learned one thing for sure: Arkansas’ municipal officials and employees know what they are doing. Y’all are the best of the best. Thanks again for showing the world your clear vision of hosting a successful total solar eclipse event. Spain and Iceland should take note. Both countries would do themselves an enormous favor by visiting those of you that planned so well. That’s a vision I can see with 20/20 clarity and I don’t have both eyes fully in sync yet!

Until next time, peace. ²²



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League



²⁰ The show *Doogie Howser, M.D.* was on TV from 1989 to 1993. It starred Neil Patrick Harris as the precocious and genius teenage doctor as he navigates the medical world. <https://armuni.org/4aB2FYX>

²¹ Olive is a shaggy, light brown something doodle. Mama is a goldendoodle. Papa, not so much. He’s more of a mutt.

²² As a final note, there are two things I’d like to say. First, I love writing this column because I love the cities and towns of Arkansas. You make a difference every single day. The second thing is that with only one good eye right now, and it’s for far away seeing, I’ve typed this column with my face six inches from the computer screen. This has provided LC with many a laugh! Me too, for that matter!

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City&Town (ISSN 0193-8371 and Publication No. 031-620) is published quarterly for \$20 per year (\$5.00 per single copy) by the Arkansas Municipal League, 301 W. Second St., North Little Rock, AR 72114. Periodicals postage paid at North Little Rock, Ark. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to City&Town, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

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Act 833 deadline for fire departments is June 30

The 2023 Act 833 application period for Arkansas fire departments opened January 1 and will close June 30. 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 certification training, and personal protective equipment for all active members.

Act 833 application forms are available through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management website at dps.arkansas.gov. For log-in credentials or for more information, please contact State Fire Coordinator Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or email louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov.

Barling City Clerk achieves CMC status

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

Trendsetter City Awards 2024 accepting applications

Presented by Arkansas Business Publishing Group and Crews & Associates in partnership with the Arkansas Municipal League, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Arkansas and Crafton Tull, the Trendsetter City program is designed to honor cities and towns that are leaders in innovative programs and initiatives for improvement and growth. Award recipients are recognized at the League's annual winter conference.

Trendsetter City Award winners will be recognized in the following categories:

- Infrastructure/Water: Recognizes cities and towns that have found innovative ways to preserve existing infrastructure and minimize repair costs or time including underground utilities, streets, public waterways, wastewater and more.
- Education/Workforce Development: Recognize s unique programs that are improving graduation rates, raising education standards in K-12 or developing a more qualified workforce for employers.
- Public Works (combined category): Recognizes environmental and green management, planning and land use, parks and recreation, energy resource management and public safety programs.
- Technology and Security: Recognizes advances in local broadband to improve education and access, using technology to improve city communications or to improve cybersecurity.
- Diversity and Inclusion: Recognizes steps taken to promote diversity and inclusion that empowers citizens and creates opportunities for minority populations.
- Tourism Development/Creative Culture: Recognizes cities and towns that are building unique venues, attractions, museums and more to attract tourism and improve the quality of life of citizens.

The competition is divided into three population categories to allow cities to compete with others of comparable size: cities less than 5,000 population, 5,000-20,000 population and more than 20,000. Each city can submit one award application in each award category. Entries must describe programs or projects brought to conclusion or showing significant results between July 2020 and July 2024. An official entry application must be submitted for each project. Entry forms must be received in the *Arkansas Business* office by 5 p.m. August 31 or be postmarked on or before that date. Entry forms should be submitted to: Bonnie Jacoby, Arkansas Business Publishing Group, 114 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72201; or emailed to bonnie@abpg.com. Winners will be notified in September 2024. For more information and an application, please visit www.arkansasbusiness.com/trendsetter.

Event Calendar

June 12-14, 2024, Arkansas Municipal League 90th Annual Convention, Little Rock, AR

November 13-16, 2024, National League of Cities City Summit in Tampa Bay, FL

501 Day celebrates central Arkansas

Each year, 501 Day highlights central Arkansas and all it has to offer. The date of the celebration 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 55th Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) has designated May 5 through May 11, 2024, as the 55th 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 the first full week of May as Municipal Clerks Week. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations confirming Municipal Clerks Week.

The 55th 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 their communities. To learn how you can participate and spread awareness, please visit www.iimc.com/156/Municipal-Clerks-Week for media releases, videos, posters and other promotional ideas.

Monthly sales tax receipts available online

The print version of *City & Town* is now a quarterly magazine, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback estimates are available on the League's website. 🏠

Resolutions

The League is accepting resolutions for consideration at the 90th Annual 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 **2023-2024 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 89th Convention.

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

90th Convention Resolutions

Arkansas Municipal League

P.O. Box 38

North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Resolutions deadline: Friday, May 10.

Years of Service Recognition

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 1999? 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 in 2024 at the 90th Convention, June 12-14.

To submit names, please contact Sheila Boyd at 501-537-3785 or sboyd@arml.org.

Years of Service deadline: Friday, May 3.

Great American Cleanup in Arkansas is underway

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) invites Arkansans from across the state to come together for the Great American Cleanup. The annual spring cleanup event runs from March 1 through May 31 and offers volunteers the opportunity to organize events to beautify their communities.

Community groups and organizers can register their events by going to www.keeparkansasbeautiful.com/get-involved/cleanups.

Once a community signs on to host a Great American Cleanup in Arkansas event, KAB helps organize and publicize the effort and provides volunteers with trash bags, gloves, safety vests and T-shirts while supplies last. Promotional materials such as customizable media releases, banners and volunteer stickers, as well as how-to videos and safety tips, are also available on the website.

KAB reported that the 2023 Great American Cleanup was a great success in Arkansas, with 22,276 volunteers in all 75 counties donating more than 147,000 volunteer

hours to pick up 636

tons of litter from 2,132 miles of roadside, 327 miles of shoreline areas and more than 700,000 acres of parks and public areas. Volunteers also collected 6,227 used tires and recycled 7 tons of electronics.

The Great American Cleanup in Arkansas is one of two seasonal events that KAB promotes each year. The Great Arkansas Cleanup takes place each fall from September through October. 🏠



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2024 filing dates for independent candidates for municipal office

For many mayors, council members, city directors, recorders, treasurers and other local officials, 2024 is an election year and the deadlines for filing and other important dates are approaching. The State Board of Election Commissioners has published *Running for Public Office: A “Plain English” Handbook for Candidates (2024 edition)*. This comprehensive handbook provides candidates with everything they need to know about elections in Arkansas, including the state statutes that govern the process and sample filing forms candidates may use. It is available as a free, downloadable PDF on the Arkansas Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

2024 election dates

- Preferential primary election—March 5, 2024
- Primary election runoff—April 2, 2024
- General election—November 5, 2024
- General election runoff—December 3, 2024

2024 filing dates for independent candidates

- An independent municipal candidate in a **mayor-council** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility during the **one-week period ending at noon on August 7, 2024**.
- An independent municipal candidate in a **city manager** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility **between July 31, 2024, and noon on August 7, 2024**.
- An independent candidate in a **city administrator** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a statement of candidacy and a petition **between July 31, 2024, and noon on August 7, 2024**. 🏛️



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From left, Director Kirk Lane, Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director Mark Hayes, Association of Arkansas Counties Litigation Attorney and ARORP Advisory Board Member Colin Jorgensen, and ARORP Deputy Director Tenesha Barnes.

Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership debuts ReviveAR app


The Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) has released ReviveAR, an app designed to prevent and treat opioid abuse in Arkansas. It is now available for download on the Google Play and Apple app stores. ARORP’s leadership made the announcement during a February 20 press conference at the Arkansas Municipal League’s North Little Rock headquarters.

With more than \$23 million in funding to date for opioid abatement and treatment in Arkansas coming from settlement money from the state’s historic litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors, ARORP’s free ReviveAR app is designed to help users recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, offers step-by-step instructions on how to administer Naloxone and connects users with treatment options.

In the first half of 2023 alone, 45 people died from opioid-related overdose in Pulaski County. Unless Arkansas fights back, that number will only increase in 2024, said Kirk Lane, director for the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership. “The number of drug overdose deaths are rising at a rapid rate in Arkansas, and opioid overdoses account for more than half of them. Our priority has always been the health and wellbeing of Arkansans, and this innovative solution marks a significant step forward in our efforts to combat the opioid crisis and save lives.”

Arkansas is doing more than any other state in the country to address the crisis, said League Executive Director Mark Hayes, a member of ARORP’s leadership team. “The work we’re doing in this partnership is so complete and so good for the state of Arkansas, and I’m so very proud to be a part of it,” he said. “We’ve taken the approach that whatever help a particular place needs, that’s the gap we’ll fill. If it’s a need for detox beds, then we’re going to look at that. If it’s a need for rehab space, then we’re going to look at that. If it’s a need for education, we’re going to look at that. And if it’s a need for Narcan—naloxone—then we’re going to definitely address that as well.”

Transparency is at the heart of ARORP’s mission, Lane said, and the website and the new app provide a direct look at how the settlement money is being spent across the state. “It is a handheld resource that anybody in the state of Arkansas and beyond can see exactly what we’re doing. Not only does it provide resources for reviving somebody from an opioid overdose, but it also actually revives people by giving you step-by-step instructions in English, Spanish and Marshallese. It also expands treatment aspects that we’re working on. Anything and everything about what we have funded and the partners that we have is right there in the palm of your hand.”

For more information about ARORP’s mission or how to navigate the ReviveAR app, visit ARORP.org. 

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Recovery
Partnership





PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

While the cherry blossoms weren't quite ready to bloom, it was still a lovely few days in March for local officials from across the nation to meet in Washington, D.C., for the 2024 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.

NLC celebrates its centennial at the Congressional City Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Local government leaders from cities, towns and villages across the nation gathered for the 59th National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, held March 11-13 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. According to the NLC, more than 3,000 local leaders were in attendance to hear from President Joe Biden and members of his administration, congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle, NLC's leadership, and their fellow municipal officials, who discussed issues essential to cities, including infrastructure, workforce development and the opioid crisis. The conference also gave local officials the opportunity to meet with their congressional delegations to discuss the issues facing their constituents at home.



President Joe Biden addressed the conference during the opening general session on Monday, March 11. Biden's political career began in local government, as a county council member in New Castle, Delaware, before being elected at age 29 to the U.S. Senate. "That's where I learned early on that if you want to get something done locally, send it directly to the local officials." He touted the success of the American Rescue Plan Act. "It delivered \$350 billion to state and local governments for you to decide how it should be spent." The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 also provides historic levels of funding for projects across the nation, he said. Biden acknowledged the nationwide affordable housing crisis and listed several federal initiatives intended to address it, including tax credits for first-time buyers and access to funding for builders, as well as funding to cities witnessing a historic rise in homelessness. "The bottom line, folks, is build, build, build," he said. "That's how we bring housing costs down for good."



Originally named the American Municipal Association, the National League of Cities was created in 1924 when 10 state league directors gathered on the campus of the University of Kansas to form an organization that would share information and best practices and advocate for the needs of the nation's cities, towns and villages in Washington, D.C. "Today, the National League of Cities continues to deliver on those goals, because we relentlessly advocate for cities and protect the interests of cities, towns and villages in America," said NLC Executive Director and CEO Clarence Anthony. "We're never going to change that as our mission." He reflected on some of the NLC's achievements over the past century, including directly influencing the creation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, supporting the Civil Rights and fair housing movements, and fighting for the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, Anthony said. More recently, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NLC helped ensure cities received direct funding through ARPA, the CARES Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. "We launched our 'Cities are Essential' campaign, which brought direct federal relief to every city, village and town in America. You did that." The NLC will be celebrating its centennial throughout 2024. Visit www.nlc100.org to learn more.

The National League of Cities is celebrating its centennial as an organization this year, and NLC President David Sander, mayor of Rancho Cordova, California, reflected on the progress and growth his hometown has experienced over the past 100 years. He credited the visionary leadership of devoted public officials over the years, and he encouraged today's municipal leaders to keep that in mind as they plan for the future. "It is absolutely essential that that each one of us leads with vision, a vision of what we want our future cities to look like. So dreaming of what our cities could be at their very best, that should inform every council vote that we pass, every policy decision we consider, every action we take." He also urged local leaders to not get lost in the "hot button, divisive national issues" to great applause. "You've heard this a million times and it's true: The potholes in our roads, they aren't red and blue, they just need fixing."



The opioid crisis has impacted every community in the country, and Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director Mark Hayes participated in a panel discussion on March 11, where he provided an update on our unique city-county-state partnership that resulted in successful litigation to hold the pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors accountable. The Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) continues that collaboration to distribute the settlement money where it is most needed. "It's been very successful," Hayes said. "We hit the ground running and we're already putting money out. All 75 counties—either in the cities that are there or in the county itself—have recovery programs now, and I'm happy to tell you that some of them have as many as five to 10 grants that we've approved." ARORP has distributed more than \$23 million to date for prevention and recovery programming. The crisis is a personal one for Hayes. In 2020 he and his wife Alison lost their son Wells to a fentanyl overdose. The goal is to help prevent more tragedies like the one his family has endured, he said. "The upside is we now have monies from those bad actors to begin to attack this problem. I'll leave you with this: When my wife and I sat down with the lawyers that were representing the cities and counties, she said, 'Please get this right. There shouldn't be any more mamas that have to suffer what I suffered.'"



Arkansas was well represented at the Congressional City Conference, with 25 city and town officials, League staff and family members in attendance, many of whom were able to meet with members of the state's congressional delegation on the afternoon of Monday, March 11 in the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center. From left, West Memphis Mayor Marco McClendon, Texarkana City Director Laney Harris, West Memphis Chief of Staff Steven Jones, Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse, Bentonville Director of Administration Debbie Griffin, Fort Smith City Director Christina Catsavis, League Executive Director Mark Hayes, Eudora Mayor Tomeka Butler, Fort Smith City Administrator Carl Geffken, Cave City Mayor Jonas Anderson, Texarkana City Manager Robert Thompson, Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, West Memphis Director of Emergency Management DeWayne Rose, Gentry Mayor Kevin Johnston, and Huntsville Mayor Travis Dotson.



The NLC invited presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin, left, to share her perspective on our nation’s political leaders past and present. In conversation with NLC First Vice President and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, Kearns offered local government officials advice on providing leadership during these tumultuous times. “I think transforming change in America has come precisely from what you all are doing usually, from the ground up. When Lincoln was called an emancipator, he said don’t call me that—it was the anti-slavery movement in the cities and states that did it all, and the Union soldiers that came from all over the country.” All of the great movements for human progress “bubble up” rather than come from the top down, she said. “All of these movements come from the ground up, so you are doing the work that is making history in the future. But I think the most important thing is it’s not simply what people do that leads to their legacy, it’s who they are as people.”



Several Arkansas city leaders expressed frustration with being turned down, sometimes multiple times, for U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Rep. Bruce Westerman, who is on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said he too was sometimes baffled by the agency’s selection process. “I can’t seem to find a rhyme or reason why they accept and reject certain grants.” He suggested that cities that have been rejected keep applying.



As Congress works through the appropriations process, Sen. John Boozman assured local officials that although the state’s delegates in Washington, D.C., may not always agree on national issues, they work well together when it comes to Arkansas. That’s historically been the case, he said. “I’ve had the opportunity to be here for more than 20 years, and even when I was the only Republican in the delegation, we all worked together seamlessly. It’s not about Democrats and Republicans, it’s about moving Arkansas forward.”



Adding to Boozman’s thoughts on how well the delegation works together for their home state, Rep. Steve Womack said that because of the seniority they have gained, they are in a unique position to secure funding for more projects in Arkansas through Community Project Financing, or what was once referred to as the earmark program. “And I’m an appropriator. So naturally, you can expect that I’m going to be doing my fair share for my 3rd District. So if you’re [Mayor] Kurt Maddox over at Gravette, you’re celebrating the passage of that tranche of bills last week because in there was \$7.2 million to run his sewer from city property out to that new interchange, which is going to help that area develop.”

Cultivating community

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

The history of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, known as Tết Nguyên Đán, or simply Tết, is rooted in the earliest settlements in northern Vietnam's Red River Delta and marks the new cycle of wet rice cultivation with the approach of spring. It is the biggest celebration of the year, and several hundred members of central Arkansas' Vietnamese community joined their family and friends in the community center at Bryant's Bishop Park February 4 to bid farewell to the Year of the Rabbit and usher in the Year of the Dragon, which officially began on February 10. For more than two decades the Chùa Bát Nhã temple in Bauxite has organized the annual festival, which is free and open to all. It has grown over the years from just a few dozen celebrants in a small metal building to the hundreds of revelers who gathered at the city of Bryant's large gymnasium. It was a joyful—and cacophonous—day featuring music, the traditional dragon dance, (recorded) fireworks, games and prizes. And naturally there was plenty of food, including favorites of Vietnamese cuisine like phở, bún bowls, bánh mì sandwiches, and sweet treats like pandan waffles and Vietnamese iced coffee, or cà phê đá. 🍴



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN





Railroads and resources: Cities mark milestones

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

If you spend even a little time perusing the history of our state's cities and towns in the wonderful *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, a pattern quickly emerges. Early Arkansas communities, particularly smaller ones that often began as little more than labor camps, grew and even thrived with the coming of the railroad. Of course it helped if industry had already developed around an area's natural resources, whether it was agriculture, timber or, in the case of some south Arkansas cities, oil.

For Alma, Charleston and Prescott, which celebrate their sesquicentennials this year, and for Norphlet, which marks a century, that pattern holds true. To honor the milestones they've reached, let's take a brief look at their histories.

Three from 1874

Located northeast of Fort Smith and Van Buren, **Alma** was founded on farmland and soon featured a cotton gin, drugstore, post office and a burgeoning timber business. A schoolhouse, public hall, church, Masonic lodge, saloon, hotel and other businesses soon followed. Even before its official incorporation in 1874, it was the second-largest community in Crawford County.

The growth ramped up with the 1876 arrival of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad. The cotton and timber industries were early beneficiaries of the expanded transportation access. Fruit and vegetables like strawberries, spinach, beans and tomatoes also boosted the economy. It would ultimately be the green, leafy vegetable that would put Alma on the map, not necessarily because it grew well there, but because it was canned there.

Siloam Springs-based Allen Canning Company acquired the Popeye spinach brand in 1978 and canned over half the spinach consumed in the United States. Allen's Alma cannery became the city's leading business, and in 1987 the city named itself "The Spinach Capital of the World."

Allen's filed for bankruptcy in 2011 and its various divisions and assets have since been sold off. Fortunately, Alma's economic base has diversified and the population has steadily increased over the years to nearly 6,000 today.

The Franklin County city of **Charleston** grew, not along a rail line, but along the Butterfield's Overland Mail Company stagecoach line that connected Fort Smith and points west to Memphis in the east.



Heat shimmers along the tracks on a warm April day in Prescott, which along with three other Arkansas cities celebrates a significant milestone this year.



"I'm strong to the finich 'cause I eats me spinach," sang Popeye the Sailor Man. A statue of the legendary cartoon character in Alma's downtown park is a nod to the city's former claim of "Spinach Capital of the World."

Established in the 1840s by several settlers, including a plantation-owning county judge and a Freewill Baptist preacher from Massachusetts for whom it is named, Charleston was the home of numerous churches, a school and several businesses by the time of the Civil War, when the settlement became the site of significant guerilla warfare as troops from both the Confederacy and Union moved in the area.

January 14, 1863, was one such bloody day in the city. A band of jayhawking Union guerillas led by Colonel Martin D. Hart snuck into town with a list of prominent local men to kill. They were successful, until they weren't. After killing two men, Hart and his officers were captured, taken to Fort Smith and hanged.

After the Civil War, the citizens of Charleston regrouped and rebuilt, officially incorporating in 1874. The Arkansas Central Railroad connected Charleston to Fort Smith in 1898, and it boosted the city's economy, which was largely based on cotton. Ozark, which is in Franklin County north of the Arkansas River, had been named the county seat in 1838. In 1901 Charleston was named the second county seat, since it is south of the river and traversing it was difficult.

In the days following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*,

the Charleston school board voted to comply with the law and desegregate. It was the first city in Arkansas to do so, and it was accomplished largely without the turmoil that erupted in Hoxie and, most famously, Little Rock.

Charleston has grown steadily with each decennial census. With a population of 2,588 today, it is a bedroom community to Fort Smith and has easy access to the thriving northwest Arkansas region.

The Nevada County city of **Prescott** in southwest Arkansas is a railroad town to its core. When in the early 1870s the Cairo and Fulton Railroad built a line connecting Little Rock to Texarkana, the new city was quickly plated and its first buildings constructed within just a few weeks. By the end of 1873, the new city had a depot, several stores, a hotel and a post office. Early reports compared its rapid growth to an oil boom. Prescott was incorporated in October of 1874, and in 1877 the county seat was moved from the smaller Rosston to the rapidly growing rail town.

From the late 20th century and into the 21st, timber and agriculture provided good jobs in Prescott and the city continued to grow. The Great Depression caused a decline in population as many workers sought employment elsewhere. In the years after World War II, poultry



Since the Arkansas River bisects Franklin County, Charleston was named county seat on the south side of the river, and Ozark is the seat on the north. Franklin is one of 10 Arkansas counties with dual seats.



A downtown mural depicts the importance of the railroad in Prescott's development.

and beef became more dominant in the local economy and the population ticked up again, reaching a high of 4,103 in 1980 before steadily falling to 3,101 as of the 2020 census.

Norphlet marks a century

Tucked into the piney woods just north of the regional hub of El Dorado, the Union County city of **Norphlet** was incorporated in October of 1924. Like its larger neighbor to the south, Norphlet benefitted from the region's oil boom in the first half of the 20th century, reaching a population high of 1,063 in 1930. The boom also resulted in one of the state's biggest oil-drilling disasters. In May of 1922, a rig dubbed J.T. Murphy No. 1 hit a pocket of natural gas that began spewing forth at a rate estimated at 65-75 cubic feet of gas per day. The gas caught fire, causing a series of explosions that sent flames 300 feet up, destroyed the oil derrick, and showered a 10-mile radius in shale fragments. It created a crater 450 feet in diameter. Though it is now filled with water and inaccessible to the public, the Murphy No. 1 Crater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The early 20th century boom may be behind Norphlet, but oil continues to be an economic driver in the city, which turns 100 this year. This rig operates about 100 yards from city hall and the downtown area.

While oil continues to be an important part of the local economy, Norphlet, with a population of 766, is largely a bedroom community of El Dorado. It features several churches, a branch of the Bank of Smackover, and a few retail and food options. 🏠

To learn more about the history of Arkansas' cities and towns and the people that make them special, visit the always expanding Encyclopedia of Arkansas at encyclopediaofarkansas.net, a project of the Central Arkansas Library System.

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Chester Mayor Lacey Hendrix views the Beard and Lady Inn as more than just a business venture. It's a building block in her vision of reviving the once-thriving mountain town.

Chester mayor envisions town revival

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Nestled in a valley amid the peaks of the Ozark Mountains in northern Crawford County, the town of Chester was once a thriving timber community in the late 19th century, with a prominent stop on the Frisco Railroad. A post office, shops, churches, a school and a hotel were built along the line in the span of just a few years. When the rail line was extended to Fort Smith, business shifted to the larger city to the south and Chester's population declined. Between 1908 and 1957, the town was also beset by a series of disasters. Two fires and two floods destroyed nearly the entire town.

Of Chester's original buildings, only one structure remains—a hotel and mercantile built in 1887 by Jacob Yoes, a U.S. Marshal who served under Bass Reeves. It is this building that Mayor Lacey Hendrix hopes will be the anchor of her beloved community's resurgence.

When Hendrix and her husband Lance were first married, they spent time exploring and living abroad in Egypt, western Asia and England before settling stateside in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. The pull of her hometown was strong, however, and the couple moved back to Chester. They decided to invest in their

community and bought the Yoes building, which was in severe disrepair after sitting on the market for several years. "It was rough, y'all," Hendrix says. "It was horror-story rough."

They bought the building in late 2019, just before the pandemic hit, and spent the next 18 months working with mostly local contractors to restore the building. It is now open once again and home to the Beard and Lady Inn and a mercantile selling apothecary-style personal care products and crafts made by local artisans.

Hendrix's investment in her hometown didn't go unnoticed, and friends and family urged her to run for public office. Reluctant at first, she decided that serving as mayor could help build upon what she and Lance had started and make Chester a destination. She won a tight election in 2022 and is now in her first term as mayor. She has enjoyed working with the council and community stakeholders to create a vision of what Chester can become, she says. "There's a good community here. Everybody's been so kind. Just being able to sit down at a table with people is pretty awesome. Not everybody gets that experience." 🍷



The inn features a large dining hall that has hosted dinners on special occasions and several volunteer-driven benefit meals, including one that raised money for playground equipment at the town’s creekside park. Beyond just serving as the inn’s restaurant, Hendrix envisions the hall as a community dining, meeting and event space. The local farmers market is another hub of activity, the mayor says. “There’s not a lot of farmers here, but people have their gardens, and somebody will show up with some chickens. There’s biscuits and gravy and coffee and somebody with a banjo, and everybody gets together just to be together.”



“Baptists need not answer.” Hendrix, right, shows Walton Family Foundation Senior Program Officer Meredith Bergstrom a collection of turn-of-the-century newspaper personal ads from hopeful singles looking for love. They were like the dating apps of their day, she says.



The Masonic lodge and community building was built in 1942 on the north side of the railroad line. Chester was once a stop on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad’s passenger excursions. The A&M occasionally stops for special occasions—like a wedding during the recent solar eclipse—but it’s no longer a regular stop. Hendrix would love to change that, though she hasn’t yet been able to convince them. She’ll keep trying, she says. “I think we can work something out, and I’ll keep being the squeaky wheel.”



With enough rain, you can float or kayak Clear Creek from Chester all the way to Frog Bayou to the south. The Hendrixes dream of a future where the town is a destination and getaway spot “like a little Buffalo” with a creek to float, rocks to climb, and trails to hike or mountain bike.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

April 20-27, FORDYCE, 43rd Fordyce on the Cotton Belt Festival, fordyceonthecottonbelfestival.com

April 26-28, SILOAM SPRINGS, Dogwood Festival, siloamchamber.com/dogwood-festival

April 27, HORSESHOE BEND, Dogwood Days Festival, www.horseshoebend.org

May 1-4, HAMBURG, World Famous Armadillo Festival, www.hamburgchamber.com

May 3-5, CONWAY, Toad Suck Daze, www.toadsuck.org

May 4, COTTER, Cotter Trout Festival, cottergassvillechamber.com; LITTLE ROCK, 3rd 501 Day and 1st Mural Fest, www.downtownlr.com; PARIS, Spring Time in Paris Fest, www.ParisArkansas.com

May 9-11, DARDANELLE, Free State of Yell Fest, 479-699-5246

May 11, BLYTHEVILLE, Mayfest, 870-763-2525; CORNING, 4th Hop Alley Rally

May 11-12, VAN BUREN, 46th Old Timers Day Festival, www.oldtownvanburen.com

May 17-18, HARRISON, Crawdad Days, www.crawdaddays.net; MAGNOLIA, Magnolia Blossom Festival, www.blossomfestival.org

May 30, WYNNE, Wynne FarmFest, www.crosscountychamber.org

June 1, GASSVILLE, Gassville in the Park Festival, www.cityofgassville.org; HOT SPRINGS, World Championship Running of the Tubs, www.hotsprings.org

June 6-9, EUREKA SPRINGS, Pride Festival, VisitEurekaSprings.com

June 7-8, LOWELL, Mudtown Days, www.lowellarkansas.gov; MENA, Lum & Abner Festival, visitmena.com; TYRONZA, Stars and Stripes Festival

June 19-22, PEA RIDGE, 1st City Wide Fair, cityofpearidge.com

June 28-29, MOUNTAIN HOME, Red, White & Blue Festival, www.redwhitebluefestival.com

June 29, SULPHUR SPRINGS, Sulphur Days, 479-298-3218

June 30, PEA RIDGE, Freedom Fest, cityofpearidge.com

July 2, PARIS, Fireworks Over Paris, www.ParisArkansas.com

July 4, EUREKA SPRINGS, Jamboreeka, VisitEurekaSprings.com; HOT SPRINGS, Independence Day Fireworks, www.hotsprings.org

July 25-27, CAVE CITY, Cave City Watermelon Festival, www.cavecitywatermelonfestival.com



Project: *Mile 16* - Razorback Greenway Realignment & Public Space

MCE's Land Development Department has a significant impact on the quality and character of a project, and on the quality of life it brings to residents, the region and the state. At MCE, our landscape architects and professional engineers take into consideration all factors that influence the design of a specific site. Client objectives, site context and the surrounding environment shape our designs.

This holistic approach takes into consideration the spatial relationships of buildings, plantings, hardscapes, lighting, signage, and site amenities during placemaking.



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Fort Smith: (479) 434.5333



Summer Convention
June 12-14, 2024
Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

90th Anniversary Celebration

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, we'll kick off a Southern Soiree featuring favorite foods, arts, and music of Arkansas. Be prepared for a new format, an exciting new venue, and a grand celebration 90 years in the making.

Sponsorships Available

The League would not be able to provide the education and networking events like this if not for the support of our generous sponsors. As the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state, this is the best opportunity to showcase your business. For more details, please email Valerie Shively at vshively@arml.org.

Focus on Leadership

We're honored to have one of the leading voices in civil discourse, Matt Lehrman, join us in June. The keynote address, From Conflict to Conversation, at 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday will explore the common ground found when leaders dive into the meaningful conversations that will have lasting impacts in your community.



www.armuni.org/Register90

Networking Opportunities

The growing Exhibition Hall continues to provide an engaging setting for networking and business development with even more meals, games, and a space to lounge and recharge. In addition to breakfast each day, we are partnering with *Block, Street & Building* to celebrate their New Urbanism awards at a buffet lunch at noon on Thursday in the Exhibition Hall.

Summer Convention Schedule at a Glance

June 12-14

Locations & more details may be found online.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:30 p.m. Check-in opens	9 a.m. Morning General Session	9 a.m. Annual Business Meeting
1 p.m. Joint City, County and Local Affairs Committee	10:30 -5 p.m. Breakout Discussions	10:30 a.m. Mock Council Meeting
2:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee	12 p.m. Block, Street & Building Luncheon in Exhibition Hall	12 p.m. New Officers and Awards Luncheon
3:45 p.m. Leadership Keynote by Matt Lerhman	3 p.m. Resolutions Committee	1:30 p.m. On the road home!
6 p.m. 90th Celebration Southern Soiree	4 p.m. Afternoon General Session	



www.armuni.org/Register90

Summer Convention Breakout Sessions

Available 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, June 13.

Speakers, descriptions & more details may be found online.

City attorney CLE classes are not included below.

ACE Hub Leadership Capstone

Interactive Discussion with Keynote by Matt Lerhman

FOIA for 1,000

Artificial Intelligence Unleashed: Navigating the Rise, Risks and Remarkable Applications

Legislative Audit: Common Accounting Codes

Healthy Habits, Happy Communities: Maximizing Wellness Benefits in Arkansas Municipalities

Retail Renaissance: Mastering Economic Development Recruitment

From Roofs to Rentals: Navigating Affordable Housing and Short-Term Rental Regulation in Arkansas

Diving Deep into Water System Grants and Loan Forgiveness for Arkansas Communities

Water and the Growth of Your City or Town: Financial Risk Management, Water Engineers and the possibility of a Future “Sewer Bill”

Embracing Change: Water System Consolidation under Act 605 through Efficiency, Resilience and Sustainability

Guarding our Liquid Gold: Insights on Cybersecurity in Arkansas Water Systems



www.armuni.org/Register90

Summer Convention Registration Prices

Wednesday dinner, Thursday and Friday
breakfast and lunch included

- \$150 spouses and guests pass available until June 12
- **NEW:** \$200 first-time in-person member registration available until June 12
- \$350 in-person members online registration (ends May 31)
- \$400 non-members online registration (ends May 31)
- **NEW:** \$425 in-person/on-site registration for members & non-members available day of June 12

Can't make it in person? All sessions are available online for virtual attendees 90 days post Convention.

- **NEW:** \$150 virtual-only member registration

Contact Us

We're so excited you're coming! Please reach out to us with any questions.

Tricia Zello Certification & Membership Coordinator
tzello@arml.org | 501.374.3484 x 285

Valerie Shively Director of Events & Special Projects
vshively@arml.org | 501.978.6121

Address: Statehouse Convention Center, 101 E. Markham, Little Rock, AR

Date: June 12-14, 2024



www.armuni.org/Register90

ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2024. This scholarship covers the registration fee. Additional scholarships include: four \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute in North Little Rock; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education in Little Rock; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks

(IIMC) annual conference, May 19-22, 2024, in Alberta, Canada.

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

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

Complete the nomination below and send to:

Denise Juniel
Recorder/Treasurer
City of Mineral Springs
310 E Runnels
Mineral Springs, AR 71851

Questions: minspgstr2021@gmail.com
 or **870-287-4221**

2024 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____

Other related experience: Title _____ Municipality _____ Years _____

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

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

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

Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____

Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____

How much does your municipality budget your department yearly for education? _____

What is your reason(s) for applying for this scholarship _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

	IIMC Conference; Alberta, Canada	May 19-22, 2024	Deadline: April 1, 2024
	Municipal Clerks' Institute, AML Headquarters, NLR, AR	September, 16-19, 2024	Deadline: May 31, 2024
	Academy for Advanced Education	TBA	TBA

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 2024. The finalist will be honored at the 90th Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League, June 12-14, 2024, in Little Rock.

The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2024.

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:

City Clerk Heather McVay
City of El Dorado
P.O. Box 2170
El Dorado, AR. 71730
cityclerk@eldoradoar.org

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2024

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 2024 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. _____



PHOTO BY CHAD MCCLURE, CITY OF BATESVILLE

The approval of this small-scale planned-unit development in Batesville allowed productive use (workforce housing) of a one-acre site that had limited development potential. The property owner benefitted, and the city met a stated objective of their community plan.

Undefined terms add complexity to zoning

By Jim von Tungeln

As if the zoning of private property fails to confuse folks enough, planners now deploy concepts that vary in intent and definition. Oh, they define them no doubt, each city in its own way and application. This can confuse those within the government of a city and strangers seeking to do business there. Let's take a look.

The subjects consist of concepts used in almost all zoning codes. Through long usage and general judicial acceptance, planners take them for granted. Problems occur from the fact that there is no specific enabling legislation for zoning concepts, nor is there a legal definition of these terms other than what a city employs. As mentioned, they prove confusing for elected officials, planning commissioners, intercity developers and sometimes professional planners themselves.

Take, for example, "conditional uses." In theory, such uses simplify the zoning code and allow flexibility. In actual usage, the administration of this zoning concept is "all over the place." Processing of individual cases is neither consistent from city to city nor, sometimes, among different cases in a particular city.

What are conditional uses? As conceived by planners, they allow flexibility in zoning with proper review by the city. They are sometimes called "special uses" or "uses permitted on review." They serve to differentiate between a use permitted "by right" and a use that, while

desired, deserves special analysis when proposed for a specific site.

In simple terms, some uses fit in a particular zoning district but not on every location without detailed review and permission. The proper administration permits the use on a site only if it meets plan objectives without disrupting the area in which it is located. Although not recommended, some cities informally employ them as "uses permitted depending upon who proposes them." Planners call this "zoning by personality."

How are they administered? The planning commission may impose conditions for location at a specific site to make the use viable. For example, an imposed condition may restrict lighting or noise levels. Other conditions may affect parking or circulation.

Some cities impose what might be termed "threshold conditions." These are conditions that, when met, may allow use at the location. In some cities, meeting the threshold conditions does not assure approval. It merely allows consideration of the proposal. The planning commission may impose additional conditions to make the use viable at that location. The proposal may also suffer denial due to the ubiquitous "NIMBY Veto" by adjoining property owners.

See the confusion? In all instances, the application of a conditional use should conform to the land-use principles of the city's plan and the zoning code itself.

Clear standards should exist to prevent the conditional use concept from simply undermining the plans and the intent of municipal zoning. Properly administered, the conditional use may allow flexibility in administration and creativity in execution. It may also help prevent a plethora of zoning districts, a malady affecting many current zoning codes.

In other words, it is helpful with conditional uses to define them carefully and include specific criteria for their application.

Another undefined planning concept is the popular planned-unit development (PUD). This describes a type of development that allows a developer to meet overall community land-use goals without being bound by existing zoning requirements. These have been around for a while, initially designed to allow innovative ideas such as cluster housing with higher densities and open space provided for balance in comparison with a traditional zoning district.

As observed in the research paper *New Perspectives on Planned Unit Developments* by Daniel R. Mandelker (Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law Journal, Fall 2017), "Other types of planned-unit developments [currently] include (1) single-use development, such as residential or nonresidential development, with an increase in density; (2) mixed-use development with or without an increase in density; and (3) a master-planned community."

Both the city and the developer should benefit from a PUD. The developer receives flexibility not allowed under by-right zoning. The city receives the right of discretionary review. The city additionally benefits from the requirement that completion of the project must follow the development plan approved as a PUD. This avoids the common "bait and switch" tactic. In this, a rezoning is naively approved under the assurance that a desirable use is intended only to have a less desirable, but nonetheless permitted, use appear.

In the early days, PUDs consisted of large-scale developments requiring significant acreage. It is still common to find cities requiring 20 acres or more for a major development and five acres or more for a small one. Considering that a typical city block contains around two acres, assembling that much vacant land in a mature city may prove difficult. Consequently, some cities have reduced minimum size requirements and use PUDs as a tool for infill development.

Early PUD regulations allowed, as mentioned, higher density residential development when offset by open space. Requiring open space in PUD regulations still appears in many zoning codes. Although often desirable, the strict application of this may result in maintenance issues and vacant land that is not part of the city's parks and open-space plan. It may also add

unnecessary maintenance costs to the municipal budget. Flexibility always benefits the design of PUD regulations.

Regulations governing this type of use should clearly state the goals and objectives intended to support their use. They should also form barriers to prevent the use of a PUD to bypass inconvenient provisions of the zoning code. Clearly stated objectives can reduce the possibility of PUDs that serve a political purpose rather than a planning one.

The next type of undefined zoning type receives a great deal of discussion these days. Overlay districts are both admired and scorned, depending upon who benefits and who must comply. These are specified geographic areas that involve one or more existing zoning districts. Within those specified areas, additional regulations are imposed or, as indicated by the name, "overlaid."

Such tools prove useful in protecting sensitive environmental historic areas. They can also promote more stable development along vulnerable corridors.

Although in most known cases the regulations add restrictions, there might be occasions in which permissive overlays could support plan goals.

Concerns for the use of overlay districts include overuse and over complication when simpler solutions might work. They add complexity to the development process and create differences in the flexibility of using property in one location as opposed to comparable properties in other locations. Finally, such districts should not promote exclusionary zoning.

Overall, the use of undefined zoning concepts can fail for several reasons. A lack of proper definition heads the list. The code should frame this clearly with criteria for its use. Any zoning regulation should, primarily, seek to address a need benefiting the health, safety, welfare and morals of the community as expressed in the city's plans. If it doesn't, toss it out.

Another difficulty rests in the need to apply the use fairly and consistently. Planning commissions face a difficult assignment of balancing the needs of the city with the needs of the property owner. This proves particularly important in dealing with "undefined concepts." Professional help and planning commissioner training are essential.

Finally, zoning codes should include criteria that distinctly control their administration. Such criteria should also eliminate the possibility of politicking or filibustering to gain approval or denial of a project. 🏠



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at 501-944-3649. His email is uplan@swbell.net.

Community foundations go beyond philanthropy

By Michael Hudson

Community foundations serve as catalysts for change in communities across Arkansas. These organizations, deeply rooted in the communities they serve, play a pivotal role in driving progress, fostering development and providing support for crucial services. Through strategic philanthropy, collaborative partnerships and innovative initiatives, community foundations propel communities into brighter, more inclusive futures.

At their core, community foundations are vehicles for collective action. They operate as charitable organizations that pool funds from diverse donors—individuals, families, corporations and institutions—and strategically invest those resources to address pressing local needs. Unlike traditional charitable organizations, community foundations are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between donors and community stakeholders, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and sustainably to maximize impact.

One of the key ways community foundations drive community advancement is through their understanding of local needs and priorities. By actively engaging with residents, nonprofits, government agencies and leaders, these foundations gain invaluable insights into their communities' challenges. Armed with this knowledge, they can tailor their grantmaking and initiatives to target needs within areas such as education, healthcare, economic development, environmental conservation, arts and culture, and social services.

There are community foundations doing great work in all four corners of our state, and the Ashdown Community Foundation is no exception. Since 2012, Ashdown has hosted a communitywide auction to help finance local projects. As the auction grew, the need for a primary organizer to assist with planning and implementation emerged. The Ashdown Community

Foundation was created in 2017 to perform that leadership role.

The purpose of the Ashdown Community Foundation is to fund projects in downtown and at the city park. In recent years, it has funded an all-inclusive playground, splash pad and batting cages at the city park, and added an obstacle course to the city park.

According to Vickie Williamson, the economic development director of the Little River Intermodal Authority and Ashdown Community Foundation board member, "The Foundation is passionate about projects that provide opportunities for our families and friends to enjoy time together by improving the infrastructure and facilities already in our community."

To meet the Foundation's goals this year, the community auction also included two raffle contests: one for a chance to win a five-minute shopping spree at The Rancher's Wife, a locally owned boutique; and another for an opportunity to win a new pickup truck through a Nerf football throwing contest. All proceeds from the raffle contests were donated to the Ashdown Community Foundation to assist with downtown projects and other community improvements. In total, the Foundation raised over \$126,000 through the raffles and community auction, an impressive increase compared to the \$19,000 raised in 2012 at the first auction.

In addition to helping fund local projects, the Foundation also reinvests money back into the community. According to Tyler Davis, market president of Diamond Bank and Ashdown Community Foundation board member, "For every dollar that we spend on our downtown, we are getting about \$3 worth of value."

The key to success of community foundations is buy-in from the community. As we navigate an increasingly complex world, the role of community foundations has never been more critical. By harnessing their collective power of generosity, compassion and collaboration, community foundations are helping to build a brighter future for everyone. 🍷



One of the creative ways the Ashdown Community Foundation has raised funds for projects that improve residents' quality of life.



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



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A look at the latest in weight-loss medications

By Dinesh Edem, M.D.

Obesity is a complex disease that historically has been underrecognized and undertreated by the medical community. Only in the past 10 years have we begun to have discussions about treating it as a public health emergency because of its significant health and economic impact.

The problem began in the 1970s after the introduction of processed foods, but we've seen it become a crisis in the 21st century. The United States' obesity rate rose from 30% in 2000 to about 42% in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Obesity is a major risk factor for many other health conditions, and it has caused a rapid increase in the prevalence of heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, cancer and infertility. According to the CDC statistics, obesity contributed to seven of the top 10 causes of deaths in 2021.

With obesity rates heading in the wrong direction, you can see why weight-loss drugs have captured the attention of the public, particularly in recent months as pharmaceutical companies market new medications that have shown impressive results.

If you're a patient who's considering these medications, I hope to give you a better understanding of how they work and where they fit into your pursuit of a healthier lifestyle.

How do these drugs work?

The new generation of weight-loss drugs is designed to mimic two hormones, secreted by the large (GLP-1) and small intestines (GIP), that lower blood glucose levels by releasing insulin when you eat carbohydrate-loaded foods and by suppressing glucagon in your liver. These medications also share the hormones' ability to suppress hunger signals in the brain and to slow the movement of food through your digestive system, making you feel full sooner.

The new drugs, known as semaglutide and tirzepatide, are excellent options for those with Type 2 diabetes and obesity. They've proved to be far more effective than older-generation medications, which suppressed cravings and hunger but helped patients lose much smaller amounts of weight.

Semaglutide and tirzepatide are safe when used under a doctor's supervision, but as with any drug, they're not without side effects. The most common are

gastrointestinal issues such as nausea, diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain and vomiting. Hypoglycemia, also known as low blood sugar, can occur if patients use these drugs while they're also on insulin.

Whom do they help?

The Food and Drug Administration approved the new medications to help patients diagnosed with obesity or Type 2 diabetes, both of which are chronic health conditions that require long-term treatment. Although medical spas in some parts of the country have offered the drugs to anyone who can pay, most doctors will not recommend these treatments for patients who lack a clinical diagnosis.

Unfortunately, even those who are eligible to use these medications might encounter obstacles that limit their ability to do so. The popularity of these drugs has caused demand to outpace production, which has limited their availability. The cost of treatment has also proved prohibitive for many people, as the medications cost \$1,200 to \$1,500 a month and aren't covered by many private or federal insurers.

In the coming months and years, it will be very important that manufacturers and insurers work to improve the accessibility of these treatments for the patients who need them.

A healthy lifestyle

While these drugs can have a significant impact in the lives of patients, we also need to recognize that they're not a solution by themselves. At the end of the day, any obesity management regimen should identify behavioral drivers of eating and reduce them, improve the quantity and quality of the calories you take in, and increase physical activity and burn off calories.

Those lifestyle changes are essential to losing weight and improving your health. Medications should be used when other measures are unable to help with or sustain the desired weight loss. 🍷



Dinesh Edem, M.D., is an assistant professor of endocrinology in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine and director of the UAMS Health Medical Weight Management Clinic in Little Rock

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Mile 16 trail realignment reinvigorates downtown Springdale

By Chris Bakunas, PLA

In the heart of downtown Springdale, a transformative project has reshaped the urban landscape, blending connectivity, open space and recreation. The Mile 16 project represents a significant benchmark in the city's ongoing efforts to revitalize its downtown and promote sustainable urban development.

The primary objective of the Mile 16 project was to realign the multiple 90-degree bends along the Razorback Greenway Trail as it traversed downtown Springdale, particularly at the crossing of Emma Avenue. The innovative design solution not only addressed horizontal alignment, but also vertical alignment by elevating the trail above an adjacent box culvert, which previously served as part of the trail's route. This adjustment resulted in a gentler slope as the trail met Emma Avenue, while also allowing for adequate soil depth to support the growth of trees in the adjacent green spaces.

A defining feature of the design is the incorporation of raised planters emerging from the landscape. These planters, adorned with concrete walls etched to resemble the rolling hills of the Ozark Mountains, serve as both functional elements and aesthetic focal points. Plaza spaces adjoining the iconic Mile 16 sign and Emma Avenue further enhance the visual appeal of the area, providing residents and visitors with inviting gathering spaces.

At the center of the realigned trail lies the park's namesake: the illuminated Mile 16 sign. Serving as both a milestone and a popular photo opportunity, it symbolizes the 16th mile of the Razorback Greenway Trail. The surrounding plaza provides a space to pause, inviting visitors to capture memories of their time in Springdale.

One challenge encountered during the project was devising a solution for the added weight placed atop the

box culvert as a result of the new trail and park elements. To address this issue, techniques commonly used in green roof construction for buildings were employed. Special lightweight soil mixes were utilized, and measures were taken to ensure adequate drainage, reducing the additional weight placed on the culvert while still providing optimal conditions for plant growth.

In addition to the trail realignment, the Mile 16 project included significant enhancements to Emma Avenue between Spring Street and Holcomb Street. These improvements aimed to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment while also improving traffic flow and safety. The road was narrowed to control speed, and the expansion of the sidewalks on the north side of the road allowed for the creation of seating and conversation areas, landscape beds, trees and bioretention basins.

A key objective of the street improvements was to facilitate the easy closure of the block between Spring and Holcomb streets for events. This was achieved through the installation of retractable bollards at intersections that can be easily deployed by city employees. The ability to convert Emma Avenue into a pedestrian-only space during events not only enhances safety but also fosters a vibrant and inclusive community atmosphere.

The Mile 16 project has had a significant impact on the Springdale community, contributing to increased connectivity, pedestrian safety and economic vitality. By creating attractive and accessible public spaces, the project has helped to bring people downtown, supporting local businesses and strengthening community ties.

The project not only enhances connectivity within downtown Springdale but also provides a seamless transition between the adjacent Shiloh Square and Turnbow Park. It further provides a gateway from



downtown to the newly renovated Luther George Park. This connection creates a network of green spaces that foster community engagement and encourage residents to explore the beauty of their city.

The total cost of construction was close to \$4.5 million. Funding was provided in part by the Walton Family Foundation through their Design Excellence Grant program. In addition to the aesthetic and connectivity enhancements, the project also provided an opportunity to improve the city’s infrastructure by upgrading the existing water line underneath Emma Avenue.

The Mile 16 project represents a shining example of successful urban revitalization, blending innovative design with community engagement to create a more

livable and sustainable city. As Springdale continues to evolve, projects like Mile 16 will play a crucial role in shaping the city’s future, promoting economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Mile 16 stands as a beacon of progress and community pride, welcoming all to experience the beauty and vibrancy of downtown Springdale. 🏡



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Building a citywide culture of civility

By Tracey Cline-Pew

Many of the calls I receive stem from situations involving incivility in the municipal workplace. Studies indicate that incivility is on the rise and businesses and employees alike are suffering the consequences. According to the article “The Price of Incivility,” which appeared in the January 2013 issue of the *Harvard Business Review*, 98% of workers polled over a 14-year period reported experiencing incivility in the workplace. The article goes on to say that nearly everyone who experienced incivility responded in a negative way.

The municipal workplace is more diverse than ever before. That is huge progress on a human level. However, when different viewpoints, priorities, life experiences and cultures collide it can produce conflict. How should we address it?

One key to civility is to begin with ourselves. We’ve all heard the expression “we all have our moments,” but how many moments do we get to have until those moments of incivility define our behavior? Everyone who is a public servant in any capacity is a community leader. As such, we define the culture of our communities. As a leader, what does our behavior say about us and our community?

Part of being civil, especially in the case of city officials, involves understanding your role. If you understand the statutory duties and responsibilities of your office and fulfill them without crossing over into the duties and responsibilities of other city officials, you are halfway there. Two League publications—*Guidebook for Municipal Officials of Mayor-Council Cities* and *Guidebook for Municipal Officials of City Manager/City Administrator Cities*—provide overviews of the statutory duties. They are available as free downloads at www.arml.org.

Civility is the act of showing respect for others by being polite. It connects everyone on a personal level. Civility requires making a conscious effort to make those around you know that they are respected, valued and heard, even during difficult times and while having difficult conversations.

Another key to civility is effective communication. Words have power. Effective communication fosters understanding, strengthens relationships and builds trust. Poor communication can lower employee morale, increase workplace conflict and disruption, lower productivity, build distrust, and cause absenteeism and employee retention problems. You can easily identify a

department that is struggling in this area by monitoring productivity, employee retention, lost time, and internal and external complaints.

Civil communication involves more than just being heard. It also involves active listening—paying attention to what another person is saying. How many of us focus fully on a person who is speaking to better understand their point of view, especially when it is contradictory to our own? We are often too busy composing our response in our minds so we can blurt it out as soon as it is our turn to speak, that is if we even wait for our turn. We should not assume to know what another person is trying to communicate if we do not allow them to express themselves. Have you ever witnessed a city council meeting where members raised their voices and talked over one another, racing to make their own point of view known? When this happens, chaos ensues, tempers flare, credibility drops, and the city itself pays the price because important issues are not properly addressed.

Civility in a municipal setting should be bolstered by the rules that the mayor and city council establish for conducting meetings. Most cities have adopted a resolution that sets forth how meetings are conducted, including guidelines for when meetings will take place, how the agenda is set, the order the meeting will follow, how public comments will be handled, the amount of time allotted for each speaker and other policies. Knowing and following these procedures can keep a meeting from going off the rails and create an effective environment for conducting the business of the city.

In the same way, a city's employee handbook should provide policies that set forth what is expected, including standards of conduct, non-tolerance of harassment and

anti-bullying policies. Many cities have adopted a civility policy as well. The League's civility policy is simple:

- We greet and acknowledge each other;
- We say please and thank you;
- We treat each other equally and with respect, no matter the conditions;
- We are not rude or curt;
- We acknowledge the impact of our behavior on others;
- We welcome feedback from each other;
- We are approachable;
- We are direct, sensitive and honest;
- We acknowledge the contributions of others;
- We respect each other's time commitments; and
- We address incivility when it occurs.

This policy has become a core part of the League's culture. The most powerful part of this simple policy is the last line: We address incivility when it occurs. If we allowed our employees to behave in a way that contradicts this policy without addressing it, our employees would quickly realize that the League does not value civility and the policy would be meaningless.

The League offers many publications and resources to assist you in creating a culture of civility in your municipality. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. 🙏



Tracey Cline-Pew is the League's director of human resources. Email Tracey at tpew@arml.org, or call 501-374-3484 ext. 111.



2023/2024 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	\$6.66	\$6.71	\$0.49	\$0.12	\$1.96	\$2.02
February	\$6.986	\$7.18	\$0.348	\$0.15	\$0.963	\$1.024
March	\$5.435	\$6.064	\$0.466	\$0.121	\$0.962	\$1.024
April	\$6.849		\$0.304		\$0.963	
May	\$6.521		\$0.150		\$0.963	
June	\$7.108		\$0.114		\$0.914	
July	\$7.201		\$0.067		\$3.468	
August	\$6.729		\$0.030		\$0.903	
September	\$7.203		\$0.079		\$1.024	
October	\$6.965		\$0.118		\$1.023	
November	\$6.470		\$0.107		\$1.02	
December	\$6.69		\$0.109		\$1.02	
Total Year	\$80.81	\$19.95	\$2.38	\$0.39	\$15.19	\$4.07

Actual Totals Per Month

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	\$13,350,521.33	\$13,454,740.53	\$986,285.50	\$240,989.05	*\$3,932,114.58	*\$4,053,953.86
February	\$14,007,539.35	\$14,401,299.45	\$697,870.86	\$291,821.41	\$1,931,496.92	\$2,053,698.28
March	\$10,897,459.57	\$12,165,510.80	\$934,876.36	\$243,039.99	\$1,929,735.55	\$2,053,791.22
April	\$13,733,961.21		\$609,092.78		\$1,931,683.45	
May	\$13,076,319.93		\$301,616.52		\$1,931,551.66	
June	\$14,253,484.10		\$228,043.55		\$1,833,150.85	
July	\$14,439,295.46		\$134,328.98		** \$6,954,789.31	
August	\$13,493,375.49		\$59,296.15		\$1,811,150.89	
September	\$14,443,661.62		\$159,041.84		\$2,053,956.86	
October	\$13,972,991.18		\$236,786.27		\$2,051,882.67	
November	\$12,979,685.06		\$214,451.05		\$2,052,748.94	
December	\$13,416,576.21		\$218,523.64		\$2,053,956.86	
Total Year	\$162,064,870.51	\$40,021,550.78	\$4,780,213.50	\$775,850.45	\$30,468,218.54	\$8,161,443.36

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

**Includes \$3,514,391.91 supplemental for July 2023

Monthly sales tax receipts available online

The print version of *City & Town* is now a quarterly magazine, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest sales tax reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback estimates are available on the League's website: www.armunileague.org/resources-education/publications. 📄

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 2024 with 2023 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$86,862,371	\$82,120,928	\$74,528,796	\$69,845,325	\$161,391,167	\$151,966,253	\$617,233	\$411,348
February	\$95,415,332	\$93,165,528	\$80,279,972	\$77,635,228	\$175,695,304	\$170,800,757	\$636,728	\$511,512
March	\$78,770,386	\$79,341,600	\$67,473,517	\$67,618,149	\$146,243,903	\$146,959,750	\$670,892	\$515,250
April		\$78,305,282		\$66,303,939		\$144,609,221		\$632,323
May		\$88,996,875		\$75,685,477		\$164,682,352		\$553,441
June		\$85,583,054		\$73,815,799		\$159,398,853		\$662,415
July		\$89,238,401		\$75,809,222		\$165,047,623		\$686,346
August		\$87,381,329		\$75,090,414		\$162,471,743		\$659,519
September		\$85,581,759		\$73,904,247		\$159,486,006		\$730,434
October		\$88,379,581		\$75,845,684		\$164,225,265		\$708,877
November		\$85,565,813		\$74,128,511		\$159,694,324		\$703,712
December		\$84,907,725		\$72,205,365		\$157,113,090		\$682,165
Total	\$261,048,089	\$1,028,567,875	\$222,282,285	\$877,887,361	\$483,330,373	\$1,906,455,236	\$1,924,853	\$7,457,342
Averages	\$87,016,030	\$85,713,990	\$74,094,095	\$73,157,280	\$161,110,124	\$158,871,270	\$641,618	\$621,445

May 2024 Municipal Levy Receipts and May 2024 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2023 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Fountain Hill.	2,242.74	2,814.90	Monette	24,004.95	26,672.12	Wickes	14,050.53	10,245.99
Alexander	196,166.15	188,182.70	Franklin	2,889.85	3,094.14	Monticello	246,068.36	233,887.10	Widener	4,625.00	4,766.11
Alma	305,639.77	295,152.28	Garfield	29,463.51	20,253.12	Moorfield	3,942.80	6,903.88	Wiederkehr Village	2,635.09	2,568.95
Almyra	3,063.91	3,450.15	Garland	3,984.93	6,608.72	Moro	3,157.48	3,609.35	Wilnot	3,963.94	3,928.61
Alpena	7,258.16	8,078.75	Gassville	27,086.57	26,404.49	Morrilton	198,523.74	183,760.51	Wilson	7,284.21	9,523.55
Alzheimer	3,613.60	4,131.28	Gentry	156,911.96	148,094.30	Morrison Bluff	3,625.19	3,517.65	Wilton	3,355.95	820.52
Altus	6,674.49	8,062.61	Gilbert	405.23	299.32	Mount Ida	24,434.36	25,604.54	Winslow	10,364.52	10,146.83
Amity	17,006.40	17,894.61	Gillett	14,394.51	14,840.84	Mountain Home	1,116,036.10	1,112,006.66	Wynne	181,206.97	167,136.41
Anthonyville	1,128.75	1,962.75	Gilham	10,093.45	9,012.52	Mountain View	215,568.79	209,682.85	Yellville	55,840.47	60,305.70
Arkadelphia	458,882.91	448,125.40	Gilmore	876.71	665.39	Mountainburg	18,762.13	20,996.23			
Arkansas City	22,761.75	NA	Glenwood	100,501.51	99,052.38	Mulberry	36,861.63	54,913.45	CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Ash Flat	137,994.23	133,223.25	Goshen	34,589.02	35,057.99	Murfreesboro	31,136.38	34,177.72	Arkansas County	396,740.54	353,438.27
Ashdown	173,934.11	210,941.51	Gosnell	18,066.15	18,786.00	Nashville	136,479.50	134,924.24	Ashley County	280,045.68	267,903.15
Atkins	74,674.04	80,379.80	Gould	16,979.56	18,839.89	Newport	234,577.44	239,208.15	Crossett	67,617.06	64,685.24
Augusta	25,057.52	25,920.01	Grady	6,640.73	9,590.21	Norfork	7,695.54	7,481.14	Fountain Hill	1,514.44	1,448.78
Austin	47,237.63	52,367.04	Grannis	3,145.23	NA	Norman	4,782.19	4,121.74	Hamburg	35,561.36	34,019.45
Avoca	11,951.69	14,096.86	Gravette	124,312.49	126,946.10	North Little Rock	3,432,528.74	3,714,407.36	Montrose	3,407.50	3,259.75
Bald Knob	58,991.82	62,736.86	Green Forest	107,471.94	110,580.46	Oak Grove	1,195.46	1,402.44	Parkdale	2,411.89	2,307.31
Banks	509.91	NA	Greenbrier	346,880.22	326,857.30	Oak Grove Heights	11,529.37	12,433.44	Portland	4,557.35	4,359.75
Barling	99,075.15	89,644.98	Greenland	48,389.45	48,205.95	Ola	16,411.32	21,176.94	Wilnot	5,833.40	5,580.48
Batesville	862,903.67	815,348.70	Greenwood	350,164.17	327,105.95	Oppelo	3,944.05	4,456.59	Baxter County	642,816.54	648,393.50
Bauxite	28,957.23	29,575.24	Greers Ferry	26,342.41	31,547.24	Osceola	179,049.88	150,952.84	Big Flat	1,658.16	1,672.55
Bay	10,966.97	11,919.89	Guion	2,046.77	2,329.70	Oxford	3,739.40	3,480.18	Briarcliff	4,446.89	4,485.48
Bearden	10,573.30	10,140.79	Gum Springs	1,862.70	7,973.75	Ozark	205,848.41	206,720.54	Cotter	16,694.70	16,839.54
Beebe	243,528.15	229,547.91	Gurdon	23,503.59	28,420.12	Palestine	33,026.50	32,735.83	Gassville	40,907.66	41,262.57
Beehive	409.39	125.84	Guy	12,508.98	9,488.54	Pangburn	9,437.89	10,560.18	Lakeview	14,603.15	14,729.84
Bella Vista	594,866.02	638,566.75	Hackett	10,010.90	10,264.19	Paragould	398,310.72	396,258.63	Mountain Home	241,658.58	243,755.17
Belleville	3,709.73	2,998.46	Hamburg	99,269.23	108,700.15	Paris	93,246.00	91,364.25	Norfork	8,761.89	8,837.91
Benton	2,147,761.15	2,171,084.89	Hampton	11,394.37	10,766.19	Parkdale	1,303.28	849.12	Salesville	8,912.65	8,989.96
Bentonville	3,459,790.36	4,584,808.66	Hardy	27,863.71	28,219.88	Parkin	5,756.94	6,046.56	Benton County	1,112,240.32	1,052,857.51
Berryville	290,815.09	308,030.38	Harrisburg	87,488.21	102,166.21	Patmos	300.08	156.23	Avoca	12,092.00	11,446.40
Big Flat	887.20	421.87	Harrison	850,992.85	836,506.15	Patterson	1,016.52	1,061.87	Bella Vista	747,469.20	707,561.61
Black Rock	4,841.52	10,140.48	Hartford	7,246.55	8,493.13	Pea Ridge	263,539.11	108,706.80	Bentonville	1,344,868.51	1,273,065.61
Blevins	4,275.20	4,687.14	Haskell	66,833.64	59,281.58	Perla	4,021.97	2,908.10	Cave Springs	136,438.45	129,153.97
Blue Mountain	342.36	347.27	Hatfield	5,352.91	7,675.07	Perryville	26,634.06	30,167.31	Centerton	441,767.60	418,181.51
Blytheville	497,330.56	483,796.92	Havana	3,956.11	4,584.26	Piggott	78,950.89	83,860.58	Decatur	44,022.82	41,672.43
Bonanza	2,625.64	3,434.25	Hazen	95,315.06	87,467.10	Pine Bluff	1,537,850.46	1,499,061.44	Elm Springs	11,545.75	10,929.32
Bono	21,870.24	24,782.86	Heber Springs	187,835.69	193,946.25	Pineville	2,139.35	2,154.55	Garfield	14,723.93	13,937.82
Booneville	164,029.99	148,822.60	Hector	8,164.61	9,167.37	Plainville	6,181.48	6,574.06	Gateway	10,247.70	10,825.69
Bradford	17,032.30	20,852.04	Helena-West Helena	251,062.17	263,376.34	Pleasant Plains	14,587.40	11,861.85	Gentry	94,104.05	89,079.81
Bradley	9,806.16	5,708.33	Hermitage	12,866.94	14,862.08	Plumerville	13,538.85	15,780.60	Gravette	88,070.46	83,368.36
Branch	2,657.17	2,181.19	Higginson	2,818.41	2,728.17	Pocahontas	355,789.76	330,013.72	Highfill	39,404.52	37,300.70
Briarcliff	1,763.08	2,247.76	Highfill	119,742.78	64,415.51	Portia	4,140.41	5,767.91	Little Flock	75,854.32	71,804.44
Brinkley	183,897.91	278,827.75	Highland	32,465.86	42,481.47	Portland	10,417.26	7,896.58	Lowell	244,298.08	231,254.94
Brookland	81,043.66	116,100.78	Holly Grove	11,446.11	9,766.23	Pottsville	42,431.94	46,799.61	Pea Ridge	162,857.11	154,162.12
Bryant	1,442,323.74	1,448,484.20	Hope	233,526.00	229,164.21	Prairie Grove	215,580.11	243,803.92	Rogers	1,735,785.17	1,643,111.12
Bull Shoals	32,156.26	35,434.91	Horatio	9,325.48	8,900.53	Prescott	110,034.48	70,207.82	Siloam Springs	429,228.67	406,312.04
Cabot	1,137,718.40	1,118,021.75	Horseshoe Bend	36,066.80	36,310.02	Pyatt	1,853.34	1,264.52	Springdale	300,263.92	284,232.75
Caddo Valley	50,605.68	51,660.18	Hot Springs	2,095,102.08	2,154,583.53	Quitman	32,974.04	33,244.69	Springtown	2,060.85	1,950.82
Calico Rock	55,849.83	43,755.87	Hoxie	18,541.88	20,184.70	Ravenden	4,094.20	4,339.99	Sulphur Springs	11,943.03	11,305.36
Camden	369,149.95	368,981.38	Hughes	5,782.66	8,401.25	Reactor	36,600.15	40,185.54	Boone County	541,528.79	535,289.61
Caraway	7,850.56	8,131.06	Humnok	2,393.11	NA	Redfield	44,613.65	45,247.67	Alpena	5,082.93	5,024.36
Carlisle	63,520.62	64,596.39	Humphrey	2,536.17	2,656.69	Rison	19,041.04	19,865.18	Bellefonte	7,203.73	7,120.74
Cash	3,252.11	2,647.20	Huntington	6,827.48	8,574.91	Rockport	33,059.93	30,298.84	Bergman	7,466.64	7,380.62
Cave City	34,134.98	30,964.26	Huntsville	190,342.05	192,834.24	Roe	931.48	794.80	Diamond City	13,268.19	13,115.32
Cave Springs	161,064.09	150,219.41	Imboden	11,718.77	12,883.59	Rogers	5,775,889.22	4,188,588.73	Everton	1,822.84	1,801.84
Cedarvale	15,093.61	10,125.38	Jacksonville	823,309.03	836,261.74	Rose Bud	29,827.44	26,974.51	Harrison	229,064.69	226,425.53
Centerton	518,330.14	500,313.47	Jasper	39,329.11	42,392.15	Rosston	3,602.11	3,704.64	Lead Hill	4,802.49	4,747.16
Charleston	43,312.04	46,194.35	Jennette	365.19	305.85	Rudy	15,103.82	12,731.31	Omaha	2,243.50	2,217.65
Cherokee Village	27,486.29	27,776.92	Johnson	155,100.31	143,928.21	Russellville	1,291,355.72	1,264,699.62	South Lead Hill	1,507.35	1,489.98
Cherry Valley	6,156.03	6,387.77	Joiner	4,138.27	4,902.36	Salem	27,261.56	35,571.72	Valley Springs	3,207.50	3,170.55
Chidester	5,078.35	5,212.88	Jonesboro	1,939,232.49	2,026,463.78	Salesville	4,553.79	5,177.85	Zinc	1,612.52	1,593.93
Clarendon	67,339.87	53,147.19	Judsonia	18,619.68	19,406.67	Scranton	5,096.46	6,020.29	Bradley County	159,997.95	159,203.15
Clarksville	473,021.77	560,106.36	Junction City	6,898.33	6,833.09	Searcy	1,384,144.04	1,075,792.28	Banks	926.44	921.84
Clinton	115,007.72	119,363.10	Keiser	5,456.49	5,312.54	Shannon Hills	16,687.75	17,040.24	Hermitage	5,590.61	5,562.84
Coal Hill	4,930.12	6,873.69	Keo	1,368.32	2,008.81	Sheridan	297,222.76	273,711.84	Warren	58,067.82	57,779.35
Concord	3,092.26	3,319.11	Kibler	4,629.70	5,925.56	Sherill	862.08	1,068.95	Calhoun County	137,277.66	128,676.42
Conway	2,948,519.81	3,476,134.28	Kingsland	2,784.66	2,595.08	Sherwood	1,174,725.05	1,189,610.99	Hampton	39,125.16	36,673.76
Corning	78,994.83	81,783.49	Lake City	16,762.99	16,028.07	Shirley	3,914.81	3,877.87	Harrell	6,957.06	6,521.16
Cotter	19,984.73	15,514.42	Lake Village	88,696.89	82,751.23	Siloam Springs	896,226.18	908,996.22	Thornton	11,230.68	10,527.02
Cotton Plant	1,189.17	1,370.96	Lakeview	6,102.83	6,453.85	Sparkman	5,405.78	6,874.87	Tinsman	1,656.44	1,552.64
Cove	14,171.43	12,596.77	Lamar	28,148.77	27,012.52	Springdale	3,496,106.40	3,728,810.27	Carroll County	187,581.20	196,823.81
Crawfordsville	17,949.29	14,550.80	Leachville	21,370.41	25,986.45	Springtown	459.74	437.61	Beaver	488.11	512.16
Crossett	237,956.58	259,192.30	Lead Hill	8,549.15	9,944.15	St. Charles	4,041.77	3,973.46	Blue Eye	335.12	351.63
Cushman	3,208.77	NA	Lepanto	24,452.59	22,359.40	St. Paul	4,227.95	4,352.15	Holiday Island	17,477.38	18,338.53
Damascus	12,933.25	29,559.74	Leslie	7,065.26	7,904.86	Stamps	14,876.87	16,007.16	Chicot County	155,469.51	149,668.53
Danville	54,558.22	49,728.66	Lewisville	13,777.53	13,572.67	Star City	57,012.50	56,115.24	Dermott	21,517.87	20,714.98
Dardanelle	196,054.96	193,506.44	Lincoln	97,160.12	99,939.22	Stephens	5,760.70	6,141.00</			

Morrilton	106,175.01	101,316.62	Mineral Springs	22,995.83	25,437.10	Texarkana	262,245.49	267,971.66	Mansfield	9,661.69	9,978.71
Oppelo	11,191.50	10,679.40	Nashville	88,019.98	97,364.31	Mississippi County	1,515,266.26	1,935,262.17	Waldron	38,646.75	39,914.83
Plumerville	11,145.95	10,635.93	Tollette	3,920.95	4,337.21	Bassett	2,741.70	3,501.64	Searcy County	91,586.86	96,946.33
Craighead County	372,904.23	388,233.11	Independence County	619,923.69	577,934.01	Birdsong	707.54	903.65	Gilbert	243.28	257.52
Bay	37,380.09	38,916.66	Batesville	182,045.34	169,714.75	Blytheville	296,413.47	378,572.26	Leslie	3,508.90	3,714.23
Black Oak	4,642.62	4,833.47	Cave City	2,960.62	2,760.08	Burdette	3,095.47	3,953.46	Marshall	12,435.53	13,163.23
Bono	48,000.34	49,973.47	Cushman	7,043.66	6,566.57	Dell	4,289.44	5,478.37	Pindall	888.92	940.94
Brookland	80,976.91	84,305.60	Magness	3,378.77	3,336.36	Dyess	7,495.46	9,573.03	St. Joe	1,207.06	1,277.69
Caraway	22,575.50	23,503.51	Moorefield	2,049.66	1,910.83	Etowah	5,616.07	7,172.71	Sebastian County	369,762.82	382,041.34
Cash	5,579.12	5,808.46	Newark	19,195.20	17,985.04	Gosnell	64,341.58	82,175.54	Barling	97,277.10	100,507.36
Egypt	2,251.57	2,344.13	Oil Trough	3,676.37	3,427.36	Joiner	11,011.03	14,063.03	Bonanza	11,940.96	12,337.48
Jonesboro	1,565,659.79	1,630,018.97	Pleasant Plains	5,726.03	5,338.18	Keiser	16,604.99	21,207.50	Central City	9,377.82	9,689.23
Lake City	46,346.53	48,251.68	Southside	69,607.01	64,892.27	Leachville	45,083.33	57,579.36	Fert Smith	1,813,357.38	1,873,573.13
Monette	30,007.68	31,241.20	Sulphur Rock	9,906.67	9,235.67	Luxora	20,828.10	26,601.15	Greenwood	193,577.76	200,005.85
Crawford County	522,029.74	569,266.72	Izard County	60,490.86	63,158.42	Manila	81,410.89	103,976.06	Hackett	15,948.40	16,477.99
Alma	74,939.12	81,720.14	Jackson County	330,391.57	326,855.18	Marie	2,387.93	3,049.81	Hartford	10,150.83	10,487.91
Cedarville	18,319.88	19,977.59	Amagon	909.45	899.72	Osceola	154,242.90	196,995.38	Huntington	9,967.75	10,298.75
Chester	1,852.57	2,020.21	Beedeville	1,107.16	1,095.31	Victoria	442.21	564.78	Lavaca	49,838.75	51,493.73
Dyer	9,931.85	10,830.55	Campbell Station	3,057.87	3,025.14	Wilson	16,936.65	21,631.09	Mansfield	13,914.16	14,376.21
Kibler	12,929.41	14,099.35	Diaz	16,132.90	15,960.22	Monroe County	NA	NA	Midland	4,617.71	4,771.05
Mountainburg	6,792.76	7,407.42	Grubbs	3,967.32	3,924.86	Montgomery County	210,593.84	211,840.69	Sevier County	552,643.27	567,411.28
Mulberry	19,850.82	21,647.07	Jacksonport	1,977.07	1,955.91	Black Springs	848.92	853.95	Ben Lomond	1,860.71	1,910.44
Rudy	1,672.46	1,823.80	Newport	105,509.67	104,380.34	Glenwood	548.26	551.51	DeQueen	81,140.36	83,308.64
Van Buren	298,701.53	325,730.18	Swifton	9,661.29	9,557.87	Mount Ida	8,807.54	8,859.68	Gillham	2,086.66	2,142.42
Crittenden County	1,077,657.11	1,025,061.57	Tuckerman	22,499.06	22,258.24	Norman	2,679.40	2,695.26	Horatio	12,227.54	12,554.29
Anthonyville	1,363.62	1,297.07	Tupelo	922.63	912.76	Oden	1,591.72	1,601.15	Lockesburg	7,894.74	8,105.71
Clarkedale	3,393.89	3,228.25	Weldon	751.29	743.24	Nevada County	126,214.65	142,659.94	Sharp County	305,299.90	298,918.04
Crawfordsville	4,666.60	4,438.85	Jefferson County	489,176.74	496,836.66	Bluff City	1,202.04	1,358.61	Ash Flat	14,802.94	14,493.51
Earle	18,494.70	17,592.06	Altheimer	9,842.08	9,996.19	Bodcaw	1,232.60	1,393.15	Cave City	25,153.44	24,627.65
Edmondson	2,454.51	2,334.72	Humphrey	3,026.16	3,073.54	Cale	743.64	840.50	Cherokee Village	57,057.84	55,865.12
Gilmore	1,599.98	1,521.89	Pine Bluff	583,355.24	592,489.88	Emmet	4,044.17	4,570.91	Evening Shade	6,071.52	5,944.60
Horseshoe Lake	2,666.63	2,566.63	Redfield	21,282.08	21,615.33	Prescott	31,589.32	35,703.78	Hardy	10,234.85	10,020.90
Jennette	1,072.71	1,020.36	Sherrill	749.47	761.20	Rosston	2,770.81	3,131.71	Highland	14,195.79	13,899.05
Jericho	989.89	941.57	Wabbaseka	2,545.37	2,585.22	Willisville	1,507.66	1,704.02	Horseshoe Bend	187.93	184.00
Marion	138,907.21	132,127.78	White Hall	78,920.44	80,156.27	Newton County	48,584.05	54,296.03	Sidney	2,775.55	2,717.53
Sunset	1,672.70	1,591.07	Johnson County	161,189.23	166,499.91	Jasper	4,202.32	4,696.38	Williford	1,142.03	1,118.16
Turrell	4,699.94	4,470.55	Clarksville	119,506.53	123,443.90	Western Grove	2,719.60	3,039.35	St. Francis County	420,313.61	452,263.62
West Memphis	247,673.43	235,585.61	Coal Hill	10,446.15	10,790.32	Ouachita County	424,412.34	427,954.06	Caldwell	10,493.88	11,291.56
Cross County	569,382.51	547,742.95	Hartman	6,573.43	6,790.01	Bearden	10,311.98	10,398.03	Cold	6,817.54	7,335.76
Cherry Valley	8,066.30	7,759.74	Knoxville	8,407.88	8,684.89	Camden	141,018.97	142,195.77	Forrest City	302,833.36	325,853.14
Hickory Ridge	3,198.46	3,076.90	Lamar	21,898.71	22,620.20	Chidester	3,362.02	3,390.08	Hughes	24,571.04	26,438.80
Parkin	11,138.51	10,715.18	Lafayette County	131,449.76	107,969.90	East Camden	10,604.33	10,692.82	Madison	17,660.44	19,002.88
Wynne	116,631.67	112,199.05	Bradley	3,649.53	3,819.02	Louann	2,033.16	2,050.13	Palestine	11,773.62	12,668.58
Dallas County	181,092.32	166,273.37	Buckner	1,894.25	1,555.90	Stephens	10,232.25	10,317.64	Wheatley	6,491.78	6,985.24
Desha County	115,680.34	126,454.21	Lewisville	10,504.50	8,628.16	Perry County	191,264.57	193,834.57	Widener	4,932.80	5,307.82
Arkansas City	5,287.28	5,779.71	Stamps	14,442.26	11,862.54	Adona	1,135.52	1,150.78	Stone County	201,244.03	190,449.34
Dumas	56,261.72	61,501.64	Lawrence County	391,223.10	403,832.41	Bigelow	2,682.57	2,718.62	Fifty Six	2,050.93	1,940.92
McGehee	54,124.31	59,165.17	Alicia	1,251.90	1,292.25	Casa	914.51	926.80	Mountain View	37,345.05	35,341.88
Mitchellville	4,120.14	4,503.87	Black Rock	5,165.18	5,331.66	Fourche	426.77	432.51	Union County	622,374.51	552,147.97
Reed	1,928.05	1,998.30	Hoxie	22,744.31	23,477.37	Houston	1,089.79	1,104.44	Calion	17,189.71	15,250.09
Tillar	449.98	491.89	Imboden	5,602.91	5,783.49	Perry	1,996.69	2,023.51	El Dorado	762,072.26	676,082.71
Watson	2,601.45	2,843.74	Lynn	2,258.67	2,331.47	Perryville	10,463.55	10,604.14	Felsenthal	3,265.55	2,897.07
Drew County	526,015.41	500,993.91	Minturn	761.65	786.19	Phillips County	172,451.07	187,284.92	Huttig	22,261.46	19,749.55
Monticello	148,399.15	141,340.10	Portia	3,911.93	3,831.56	Elaine	8,627.50	9,369.62	Junction City	21,016.93	18,645.45
Tillar	2,461.01	2,343.95	Powhatan	970.47	939.82	Helena-West Helena	163,079.62	177,107.37	Norphlet	27,064.28	24,010.44
Wilmar	6,943.58	6,613.28	Ravenden	3,729.44	3,849.64	Lake View	5,700.49	6,190.83	Smackover	70,164.64	62,247.51
Winchester	2,408.28	2,293.72	Sedgwick	1,426.99	1,472.98	Lexa	3,628.85	3,941.00	Strong	18,373.11	16,299.95
Faulkner County	1,082,692.99	1,067,786.55	Smithville	761.65	786.19	Marvell	15,036.80	16,330.24	Van Buren County	263,953.67	274,300.98
Enola	2,843.29	2,804.14	Strawberry	2,346.22	2,421.84	Pike County	231,064.71	222,730.77	Clinton	35,329.94	36,714.92
Holland	5,239.51	5,167.38	Walnut Ridge	47,134.46	48,653.65	Antoine	1,596.77	1,539.17	Damascus	3,449.91	3,585.16
Mount Vernon	1,287.53	1,269.80	Lee County	36,803.82	38,100.95	Daisy	1,243.50	1,198.65	Fairfield Bay	27,416.26	28,491.01
Twin Groves	2,834.35	2,795.32	Aubrey	902.75	934.57	Delight	4,069.63	3,922.85	Shirley	3,492.16	3,629.06
Wooster	9,316.67	9,188.41	Haynes	1,019.77	1,055.72	Glenwood	28,346.12	27,323.75	Washington County	1,987,390.04	2,055,002.34
Franklin County	385,490.06	251,137.00	LaGrange	434.66	449.98	Murfreesboro	21,125.35	20,363.41	Elkins	70,206.41	72,594.88
Altus	11,162.79	7,272.27	Marianna	29,882.73	30,935.93	Poinsett County	278,715.65	301,792.53	Lepanto	20,938.55	38,212.07
Branch	4,968.70	3,236.98	Moro	1,479.51	1,531.65	Fisher	2,009.67	2,176.06	Marked Tree	25,522.77	27,635.98
Charleston	43,442.54	28,301.71	Rondo	1,362.48	1,410.50	Harrisburg	24,696.57	26,741.38	Trumann	82,608.47	89,448.22
Denning	4,849.33	3,159.22	Lincoln County	173,342.45	190,586.87	Lepanto	19,337.46	20,938.55	Tyrnza	7,994.01	8,655.89
Ozark	59,456.52	38,734.41	Gould	5,053.68	5,556.44	Leopold	19,337.46	20,938.55	Waldenburg	591.74	640.73
Wiederkehr Village	839.31	546.79	Grady	2,324.85	2,556.13	Marked Tree	25,522.77	27,635.98	Weiner	7,223.62	7,821.73
Fulton County	258,540.44	300,011.13	Star City	16,563.57	18,211.40	Trumann	82,608.47	89,448.22	Polk County	311,549.90	316,731.34
Ash Flat	729.21	846.18	Little River County	362,280.91	449,815.17	Tyrnza	7,994.01	8,655.89	Cove	8,479.90	8,620.92
Cherokee Village	5,375.49	6,237.74	Ashdown	53,594.84	66,544.43	Waldenburg	591.74	640.73	Gannett	13,185.04	13,404.32
Hardy	225.86	262.09	Foreman	12,288.70	15,259.90	Weiner	7,223.62	7,821.73	Hatfield	9,171.06	9,323.58
Horseshoe Bend	70.98	82.37	Ogden	1,647.72	2,045.84	Murfreesboro	21,125.35	20,363.41	Mena	148,571.02	151,041.94
Mammoth Spring	5,995.00	6,956.61	Wilton	3,609.89	4,482.11	Hector	7,175.09	7,118.95	Vandervoort	3,057.02	3,107.86
Salem	10,105.67	11,726.65	Winthrop	1,459.05	1,811.57	London	16,340.36	16,212.51	Wickes	16,933.20	17,214.84
Viola	2,310.23	2,680.80	Logan County	399,693.80	390,410.23	Pottsville	54,817.02	54,388.11	Pope County	449,674.14	446,155.75
Garland County	2,289,394.10	2,281,028.99	Blue Mountain	1,052.96	1,028.50	Russellville	505,224.39	501,271.80	Atkins	49,912.42	49,520.90
Fountain Lake	14,749.18	14,695.29	Booneville	45,576.39	44,517.80	Prairie County	88,666.39	88,202.80	Dover	23,340.88	23,158.25
Hot Springs	785,174.06	782,305.15	Calkleville	1,842.68	1,799.88	Bischoff	3,364.84	3,347.25	Hector	7,175.09	7,118.95
Lonsdale	3,198.24	3,186.56	Magazine	8,854.43	8,648.77	Des Arc	21,016.48	20,906.60	London	16,340.36	16,212.51
Mountain Pine	18,164.79	18,098.42	Morrison Bluff	933.30	911.63	DeValls Bluff	5,736.78	5,706.79	Pottsville	54,817.02	54,388.11
Grant County	295,225.75	269,327.60	Paris	38,002.26	37,119.59	Hazen	16,338.80	16,253.37	Russellville	505,224.39	501,271.80
Greene County	418,037.79	427,302.74	Ratcliff	1,998.23	1,951.82	Ulm	1,930.66	1,920.55	Maumelle	420,037.86	432,213.78
Delaplaine	875.70	895.11	Scranton	2,931.53	2,863.44	Pulaski County	1,046,090.86	1,076,414.61	North Little Rock	1,409,312.00	1,450,164.69
Lafe	5,719.42	5,846.18	Subiaco	4,798.15	4,686.71	Alexander	4,800.18</				

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at

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.

ACCOUNTANT—The city of Osceola is currently accepting applications for the position of city accountant. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department. This posting will remain open until the position is filled. The incumbent assists the mayor, chief operating officer, human resource director and electric department director in providing financial and accounting services for the city. The incumbent is responsible for performing technical and administrative professional accounting work in maintaining the fiscal records and systems of the city. The job objective is to ensure financials, grants, bonds and other special program accounts are reconciled, balanced and maintained in accordance with established policies and procedures. Qualified applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in accounting or related area and have two to four years of experience in accounting, management reporting or auditing in a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) environment. Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) or Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) preferred. Annual salary \$55,000 – \$67,000. To apply, you must submit a city of Osceola application. Visit osceolaarkansas.com to apply or email jstanford@osceolaar.gov to request an application. Resumes will not be accepted without an accompanying application. EOE and drug free workplace.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—Forrest City is seeking a full-time, dedicated, self-motivated code enforcement officer to join our team. The ideal candidate will have experience in the field of building construction, gas/plumbing and HVAC as well as the ability to work well with the public to enforce ordinances and codes. The code enforcement officer reviews plans for completeness and code compliance, inspects additions, remodels, and new construction to ensure work complies with the Building Code, National Electrical Code, Arkansas Plumbing/Gas Code, and the Arkansas Mechanical Code, and enforcing other city codes and ordinances such as demolition and condemnations. The code enforcement officer will also serve as the safety coordinator for all departments. The city offers a competitive benefits package, including health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and paid time off. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. To apply, submit resumes to Mayor Larry S. Bryant, 225 N. Washington, Forrest City, AR 72335; or email glynch@cityofforrestcityar.com.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—The town of Menifee seeks a part-time code enforcement officer. The position shall perform code enforcement work as it relates to the town's planning commission. Duties will include enforcing town of Menifee codes and related ordinances. A detailed job description is available on the town's website, or call Menifee City Hall at 501-354-0898 ext. 1 or 2 with questions. Starting salary will be \$15 per hour.

DISTRICT MANAGER—The Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District is seeking a district manager. Holiday Island is a planned community in the scenic Ozark Mountains on Table Rock Lake, located within the city's boundaries. The city and suburban improvement district share responsibilities in providing essential public services throughout the district. The suburban improvement district is the owner and operator of the community's public infrastructure and facilities. The district manager is responsible for the overall management of district provided facilities and services, including roads, water, sewer, fire/EMS, law enforcement, marina, campground and recreation. The district manager is the chief executive and operational officer and is responsible to an elected board of commissioners for the overall affairs of the district. The district manager must establish rapport and maintain an effective and contractual relationship with the city, Holiday Island Planning Commission and Carroll County Sheriff's Department. The district manager routinely speaks in public to large groups of people and provides the utmost in personal attention with individual responses to help and assist Holiday Island property owners. A bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or related field is required. MBA and/or planned community experience a plus. Applicants should have substantial management and administrative knowledge and experience in municipal government or a public agency. Strong skills in team building, personnel management and budget preparation are essential. General information about Holiday Island can be found on-line at www.holidayisland.us. Applicants should send resume, cover letter and detailed salary history to: Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District, ATTN: District Manager Search, 110 Woodsdale Drive, Holiday Island, AR 72631; or email districtmgr@holidayisland.us.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR—North Little Rock Wastewater Utility is currently accepting applications for the position of Financial Administrator. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department. The application and job description can be found on our website at NLRWU.com. The position will remain open until filled. Questions can be emailed to Afulk@nlrwu.com.

FFINANCE DIRECTOR—The city of Batesville is seeking a highly collaborative and progressive government finance professional to join our executive team to direct and coordinate the activities of the city's finance department, which includes Batesville Water Utility. The annual salary will be based on education and qualifications. Salary package also includes APERS retirement, health insurance at a low cost to employee, access to credit union and other supplemental insurances. Some additional employee benefits are accrued vacation and sick leave and 12 paid holidays. A job description and application may be found at www.cityofbatesville.com. Find quick links on the left side of the home page and select Employment/Job Postings. Job description and application will be listed at the top of the page. Please submit applications/resumes to: City of Batesville, Finance Director Applicant, 500 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501. Resumes may also be emailed to mayorassistant@batesvillearkansas.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—The city of Searcy is seeking a dynamic and experienced individual to serve as its finance director. This key leadership position will oversee all financial operations and provide strategic guidance to ensure the fiscal health and stability of the city. The finance director will work closely with city officials, department heads and external stakeholders to manage budgets, financial reporting and long-term financial planning. Candidates should have a broad knowledge of such fields as advanced accounting, business administration, finance, etc. Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university and six years of related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience is necessary. The city of Searcy offers a retirement plan, 100% paid health insurance, paid holidays (including your birthday), paid vacation and sick days, grade pay scale, and longevity bonuses. Visit CityofSearcy.org/human-resources to download an application.

POLICE CHIEF—The city of Batesville is seeking highly qualified applicants for the position of police chief. The candidate must be certified by the Arkansas Commission of Law Enforcement Standards and Training and be in good standing. Possess 10 or more years of law enforcement experience and have a minimum of five years of managerial and supervisory experience. The annual salary will be based on education and qualifications. Salary package also includes LOPFI retirement, health insurance at a low cost to employee, access to credit union and other supplement insurances. Some additional employee benefits are accrued vacation and sick leave, and 12 paid holidays. A job description and application may be found at www.cityofbatesville.com. Find quick links on the left side of the home page and select Employment/Job Postings. Job description and application will be listed at the top of the page. Please submit applications/resumes to: City of Batesville, Police Chief Applicant, 500 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501. Resumes and applications may also be emailed to mayorassistant@batesvillearkansas.gov. Deadline for applications is April 12.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—The city of Camden seeks an exceptional candidate for the position of public works director. The public works director is under administrative direction of the mayor and provides leadership, direction and oversight to the public works department and employees. Using asset management principles and practices, is responsible for city infrastructure, solid waste management, and transportation systems including: surface and storm water conveyance; transportation systems including planning, streets, operations, street lighting, parking, and traffic control; solid waste programs and environmental remediation; the engineering and project work associated with these systems; major buildings and facilities maintenance and capital; real estate acquisition, property management and commercial leasing; internal services programs for all city departments in the areas of fleet, purchasing, warehouse and Geographic Information Systems. Work involves significant community engagement and public involvement with elected officials, other policy makers and residents. Engages and collaborates with local, state, federal agencies. Serves as a member of the city's senior management team, collaborates with the executive department, city council and other city departments on strategy and policy to ensure that the city's mission and core values are incorporated into operational activities and services. The ideal candidate will have: bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration, business administration or related field; seven years progressively responsible management experience in a related field, including five years in a senior management position in a community of similar size and/or service level. Preferred qualifications include: master's degree in civil engineering, public administration, business or related field. A significant record of responsibility for general fiscal management, capital budget management, and strategic planning. Experience in a community with active citizen involvement. Effective work with elected officials, advisory boards, community and environmental groups. Demonstrated creativity and innovation in programs and processes. Proven track record of collaboration and engagement with stakeholders (including both internal and external customers). An equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to provide the applicant with the knowledge, skill and ability to successfully perform the essential functions of the job will be considered. Full job descriptions are available upon request. Salary: \$62,000 – \$67,000 per year. Benefits: 401(k), 401(k) matching, dental insurance, health insurance, life insurance, paid time off, vision insurance. To apply, contact Mayor Charlotte Young, mayor@cityofcamdenar.com.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—The city of Cedar Hill, Texas, is seeking an innovative, community-oriented servant-leader to join our municipal family as the next public works director! Nestled 20 minutes southwest of downtown Dallas, the city of Cedar Hill borders the eastern shore of Joe Pool Lake and Cedar Hill State Park. Lush, tree-lined rolling hills and wide-open green space allow for hikes, bike rides and other outdoor recreational opportunities, and from specialty boutiques in historic downtown to enjoying a day on Joe Pool Lake, the community has found a perfect balance of big-city amenities and small-town charm. The purpose of this position is to direct the activities and operations of the public works department by coordinating the activities of various departments. This is accomplished by establishing the activities of the fleet maintenance, street maintenance, water and sewer, engineering, transportation and CIP divisions with each other and outside agencies. Other duties may include recommending and administering policies and procedures, directing and coordinating department work plans, supervising department personnel, overseeing and participating in the development and administration of budgets, representing the department to other city departments, and interfacing with other city employees and citizens. This position provides direction to other employees. For more information and to apply, visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cedarhill/jobs/4268304/public-works-director.



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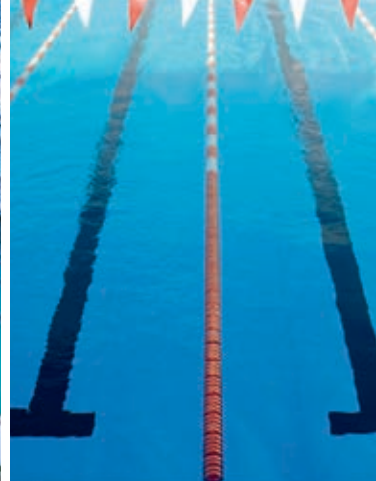
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