

City & Town

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FEATURES

- 6 Townsell, Gaskill assume League Leadership**
The League Executive Committee, after Stewart Nelson's resignation as League president, elects Conway Mayor Tab Townsell as president and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill as first vice president.
- 7 Priorities set at NLC Congress of Cities**
The National League of Cities conference, with Arkansas delegates participating, decides national policy to take to Congress.
- 10 Here are a few tips for media relations**
Newly elected city officials and experienced city leaders may sharpen their media relations skills.
- 16 Tentative League Winter Conference program**
Participants to the conference, Jan. 10-12, can see agenda. Special sessions especially help new city officials.



Legislative committee meetings like this one of the Legislative Council-Joint Budget Committee in November will need participation of mayors, city council members and city directors during the 2007 legislative session. Above, League Executive Director Don Zimmerman responds to questions as Mayor Tab Townsell, now League president at far upper right, listens.

PHOTO BY JOHN K. WOODRUFF, LEAGUE STAFF

City&Town

EDITOR

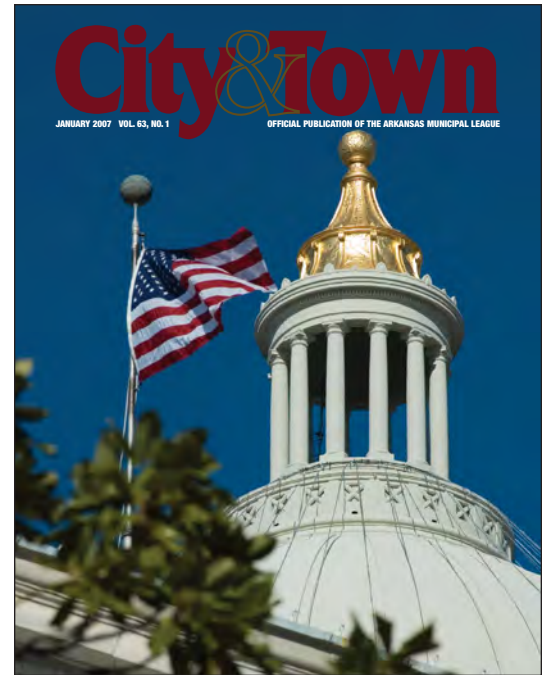
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ON THE COVER—Under the State Capitol dome, legislators in a few more days will gather as the 86th General Assembly begins. The state sales tax on groceries and turnback to municipalities are among crucial topics of concern to cities and towns. League leaders have urged mayors and aldermen to help deliver municipal concerns to legislators during the session. Legislative topics will be discussed at the League Winter Conference. See the tentative program inside. See you at the Capitol!—jkw

DEPARTMENTS

<i>Animal Corner</i>	26
<i>a'TEST Newsletter</i>	34
<i>Attorney General Opinions</i>	22
<i>League Officers, Advisory Councils</i>	5
<i>Municipal Mart</i>	50
<i>Municipal Notes</i>	20
<i>Obituaries</i>	29
<i>Planning to Succeed</i>	24
<i>President's Letter</i>	4
<i>Professional Directory</i>	48
<i>Sales Tax Map</i>	46
<i>Sales Tax Receipts</i>	47
<i>Sister Cities International</i>	28
<i>Your Health</i>	36

Cover Photo by John K. Woodruff, League staff

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Greetings,

The New Year is always an exciting time. New plans freshly drafted and public servants newly sworn-in bring an air of anticipation to the coming days. It is with sorrow, however, that I greet you as president of the League rather than as first vice president. In accordance with League policy, Mayor Stewart Nelson stepped down as president at the December Executive Committee meeting as he again enters the private sector. This letter and the next five would have rightfully been his, and it is only with regret and fond farewells do I assume his pen and his position. I am, however, proud to introduce the League's new first vice president, Mayor Mike Gaskill of Paragould. He will serve this League honorably and ably in his new role.



January for the League means Winter Conference time. This year's Winter Conference promises to be even more exciting as we will welcome not only the newly elected municipal officials and the state legislators, but for the first time in 10 years we will also welcome a new governor. Fresh from his inauguration two days earlier, new Governor Mike Beebe will address the League at the Thursday luncheon. The 86th Arkansas General Assembly, having swept into town for the inauguration and the start of the legislative session, will be the League's special guests for our Wednesday Night Banquet. A huge and vocal crowd filling the banquet halls for these two events can make a great impression on our new governor and our guests from the General Assembly.

New and veteran city officials will also enjoy the programming and networking available at the conference. For new officials, the available training is vital, nay, indispensable to better understand your new roles and responsibilities when personal liability is at risk. I can personally vouch for the new official programming from when I first entered municipal service. And as far as new ideas and innovative thinking in dealing with your city issues, there is no better source than your fellow municipal officials roaming the halls at a League convention.

Finally, help us kick the year off right as the League moves into the legislative session. The League takes its legislative packet to the General Assembly the week following the Winter Conference, and it will be working to bring you extra turnback monies, to protect your district courts and to level the playing field for cities in our ongoing struggles with rural water. Your attendance of the conference and your help in keeping your legislators informed of League issues will greatly aid in making 2007 a very successful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tab Townsell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tab Townsell, Mayor, City of Conway
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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Mayor Mike Gaskill, **Paragould**
Mayor L.M. Duncan, **Bono**
Mayor Rick Holland, **Benton**
Mayor Dan Coody, **Fayetteville**
Mayor Carl Redus, **Pine Bluff**
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First Vice President
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Top two League officers assume their new duties

Mayors of Conway and Paragould are elected president and first vice president of Municipal League in special meeting.



Townsell

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Municipal League Executive Committee Dec. 13 elected Mayor Tab Townsell of Conway as League president and Mayor Mike Gaskill of Paragould as first vice president. Townsell had served six months as first vice president.

The voting came in a special executive committee after Mayor

Stewart Nelson of Morrilton resigned as League president, effective immediately, during a regular meeting of the Committee. Bobby Kirby defeated Nelson in the May Democratic primary mayor's race. Nelson's term as mayor expired Dec. 31.

Mayor-elect Kirby had no opponents in the November general election. The Executive Committee reconvened in special session after its regular meeting and elected the top two officers.

Gaskill was serving as chair of the League Public Safety Advisory Council. The position is vacant. Previously, Gaskill had served on the League First Class Cities Advisory Council and the Executive Committee. Gaskill and Mayor JoAnne Bush of Lake Village are the League representatives on the state Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI).

Townsell, elected first vice president June 16 at the annual convention, was elected Conway mayor in 1998. Since then, the Faulkner County city has experienced phenomenal growth—from about 43,167 in 2000 to more than 52,000 today.

Both Townsell and Gaskill, natives of their respective cities, had served in public and civic positions in their cities before entering politics. Townsell, who worked in his family's business, Townsell-Hill Construction, served on the Conway Transportation Advisory Committee and the Conway Planning Commission and on the Metroplan Transportation Advisory Committee.

Gaskill, in the Greene County city of 22,017, is chair of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District and chair of the Workforce Investment Board for the region. Before taking office as mayor,

he had been in management for the Big Star grocery chain, and had been active in the Paragould Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, Kiwanis Club, Youth Baseball Program and other activities.

.....

Former League President, Stewart Nelson, sends note to colleagues

As president of your Municipal League, I pass the gavel on to my good friend, League Vice President Tab Townsell of Conway, here at mid term.

It couldn't be in better hands. It is earlier than I would have hoped, but we are always subject to the will of the voters. Even though my term is ending after only a half-year, I feel that I have been given one of the greatest honors that any elected city official can be given, and that is being president of the League.

Mayors more than any other elected official know that they are only as good as the next election, and with few exceptions there is always someone to challenge us.

Most mayors in the League are part time in pay, but full time in service. We are expected to run the people's business with love and understanding, knowing that we can only please some of the people, and no matter how good a job we do, someone will be displeased.

If you are a newly elected official, you need to be ready to learn and study like you have never done before. Leave the politics behind and concentrate on serving the people of your communities.

As old elected and newly elected officials, there is a place for you in the League leadership. When asked at the League annual convention in the summer if you would like to serve, sign up for one of the advisory councils at least.

There are three certainties about elected office: The pay is not equal to the job that is expected of you, your job is certain only until the next election, and there is no greater satisfaction than you can get from serving your community.

Stewart Nelson



Gaskill

Congress of Cities sets municipal priorities, legislative agenda, elects officers

Housing, immigration, homelessness, CDBG, telecommunication issues were among hot topics in national policy set for cities, towns for the coming year.

By Stewart Nelson

RENO, NEV.—The growing lack of affordable housing, continuing threats to the Community Development Block Grants program and immigration issues were among the major themes at the National League of Cities Congress of Cities (COC) and Exposition Dec. 5-9 in Reno, Nev.

The traditional sounds of Reno gaming slowed as almost 3,500 mayors, council members and other elected officials gathered to listen, learn and share in this western Nevada town amid the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Last year's meeting was in Charlotte, N.C., and the next COC will be held in New Orleans in 2007. The COC brings together city officials for learning and setting the NLC legislative agenda and municipal priorities for the coming year.

Nationally recognized speakers at Reno included Henry Cisneros, U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton, and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

Cisneros in 1981 became the first Mexican American mayor of a large American city, San Antonio, and later he served as NLC president.

Mayor Nagin, who will be the host mayor at the Nov. 13-17, 2007, COC meeting, has paid other visits to NLC since Hurricane Katrina devastated his city. He has harshly criticized the federal disaster response.

Both Cisneros and Nagin recognized affordable



PHOTOS BY STEWART NELSON, FORMER LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Mayor Tab Townsell of Conway, left, now League president, and Hot Springs City Director Elaine Jones and Benton Mayor Rick Holland get ready for a group picture at the NLC business meeting.

housing as a major issue for cities and towns across the country. Housing issues start with homelessness and move up to shelters, to rental housing and through first-time home ownership. While first-time home ownership and rental housing is not a major issue in Arkansas, it is



Townsell, from left, League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, North Little Rock Aldermen Charlie Hight and Martin Gipson await the start of the NLC business meeting.



(Above) Pine Bluff Mayor Carl Redus, left, and Star City Mayor Gene Yarbrough enjoy a few moments at the NLC business meeting at the Congress of Cities. (Below) As the business meeting progressed, background, Arkansas delegates being photographed are, from left, Morrilton Mayor Stewart Nelson, Benton Mayor Rick Holland (back row), North Little Rock Alderman Charlie Hight, Pine Bluff Mayor Carl Redus, St. Charles Mayor Robert Patrick, Star City Mayor Gene Yarbrough, Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim, Hot Springs City Director Elaine Jones, North Little Rock Alderman Martin Gipson, League Director Don Zimmerman and Conway Mayor Tab Townsell, now League president.



Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim reviews agenda at an NLC Advisory Council meeting.

an issue in communities where starter home prices begin at more than \$300,000 and homelessness, even for families, continue to be a problem.

The voting delegates on the closing conference day elected these new NLC officers for 2007, effective immediately:

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, president;

Madison, Ala., Council Member Cynthia McCol-lum, 1st vice president; and Northglenn, Col., Mayor Kathleen Novak, 2nd vice president.

“Most Americans live in cities, and we are the first responders, first providers and the level of government closest to the people,” Peterson said in his acceptance speech. “As such, cities must be at the forefront of national and state policies. I look



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND PHOTOGRAPHER STEVE SCHNEIDER

forward to being a strong voice for Indianapolis and other cities across our state and country.”

Osceola Alderman Tommy Baker, who has been elected an Arkansas state representative, completed at the meeting a two-year term on the NLC Board.

To help shape the NLC policy and lobbying efforts with Congress, policy committees and steering committees met during the year to study and bring to the NLC voting delegations suggestions on the directions that the NLC should take on municipal issues.

Their suggestions are voted on at the winter meeting. The biggest issue is the question of the future of Community Development Block Grants or CDBG. These funds are one-time moneys that the federal government makes available to communities for special projects, such as streets, sidewalks and drainage. Many of these projects lack any other funding sources. CDBG has been an issue for cities for the last two or more years because of major proposed cuts, which, with the backing of Congress, have been averted.

Another issue in NLC policy is finding a workable immigration system. The NLC proposes immigration policy reform, especially since the flood of undocumented workers is affecting local budgets, local service delivery and community life.

The NLC policy states that it is the responsibility of the federal government for enforcement of undocumented workers and that the responsibility cannot be put on local governments. The NLC recognizes that undocumented workers are a major part of the workforce and that provisions need to be made for necessary



Closing ceremonies at the NLC Congress of Cities caught the delight of Jan Zimmerman and Sarah and North Little Rock Alderman Martin Gipson.

“guest workers.” The NLC notes that there is not an easy solution.

Telecommunication reform is another NLC concern. Bills pending in Congress would have detrimental effects on local governments, for example, by taking away local control of rights-of-way for utilities and passing the control to the national government. Some proposals before Congress and opposed by NLC would take away some utility franchise fees and local governments’ right to control local service.

Working through these and scores of other municipal issues helps NLC members speak and lobby with a common voice on national issues and helps cities develop local policies.

Both the winter NLC national meeting and the NLC City/Congressional Conference yearly in March in Washington, D.C., set legislative priorities and present opportunities for city officials to learn, to meet and to be a part of national policy that affects cities.

Learning at the COC occurs in workshops and training meetings and informal sharing of thoughts and ideas among participants. Specialized learning is offered in all-day classes, shorter workshops, and presentations from prominent speakers.

Special classes start early in the week on a variety of subjects ranging from balancing professional and personal lives through building public trust, dealing with the press, and emergency preparedness 101. The shorter



Mayor Tab Townsell of Conway, at the NLC meeting a few days before he became Arkansas Municipal League president, and Star City Mayor Gene Yarbrough, former League president, visit at the final day of NLC meeting.

Basic steps assist city officials to handle media relations

By John K. Woodruff, League Staff

Below are a few tips from the perspective of a former reporter who specialized in municipal affairs. The tips are adapted from several sources and experiences and have been placed in a handout made available at League conventions and conferences.

Newly elected city and town officials may find some of these points handy when learning to deal with curious reporters. Veteran officials may find a suggestion for polishing up on meeting with the media or public and may want to add a few points of their own.

- **Know your audience.**

You have two audiences when talking to a reporter: The media person in front of you and the home audience. Make sure the primary audience, that reporter, understands what you are saying so the ultimate audience—

your constituents and the person reading the newspaper, watching television or listening to radio—receives your message correctly.

Get to know the reporters, their editors and, in broadcast journalism, news directors and broadcast reporters. Your becoming acquainted with reporters and their supervisors in non-crisis situations can go a long way in dealing with the media in times of stressful news events.

- **Use plain English; avoid jargon and acronyms.**

Avoid 25-cent words when 5-cent words will do. “Abide until the lactating ruminant quadrupeds retrovert to their permanent domicile” should be “Wait until the cows come home.”

You may know that a PUD isn’t a new dog breed

continued from page 9



St. Charles Mayor Robert Patrick, Star City Mayor Gene Yarbrough and Hot Springs City Director Elaine Jones await the NLC business session start.

workshops have a wider range of topics—from housing issues to providing Internet access to your community.

Nationally recognized speakers at the general sessions speak on city-related issues. The week’s work

comes to a close with an entertainment program hosted by the host city and promotes an array of food and entertainment typically native to the host city’s region.

This year’s closing program theme was of the old west with calf roping, gun fighting, western music and all-you-can-eat food and refreshments.

Besides the formal learning groups, constituency groups such as Women in Government, Christian Public Officials Caucus and the National Black Caucus/Local Elected Officials hold their own sessions during the week.

The COC conference is also the showcase for vendors who specialize in city services. From Internet access to park benches, to Harley Davidson motorcycles, to grant writing, and others, vendors display their programs, services and hardware and talk to city officials one-on-one.

Spouse programs highlight the attractions of the area. In Reno was a wine country tour, an artist studio tour, tours of the old west and shopping opportunities. The snow tour was canceled when balmy weather for this time of year moved in. It was warmer here high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains than it was in Arkansas.

Stewart Nelson, former president of the Arkansas Municipal League, has been mayor of Morrilton. His term as mayor ended Dec. 31.



or an LHA isn't a social disease or that TQM is more about keeping quality than something to drink with lunch, but does the little lady sitting at home watching or reading the news know that? Avoid acronyms, pronounce the full names or spell them out in news releases.

- **Prepare for the interview.**

Know your facts, the information you will release. Supplementing what you say with charts, news releases (or simply written facts and figures about which you speak) or other visual aids enhances clarity and understanding. Business cards even help keep names and titles correct. Have ideas ready for photographers and television cameras to illustrate what you say. (If you need a sales tax for a city garage, better streets and a new fire truck, show or tell of the crowded, dilapidated garage, pot holes or torn up streets and the worn out or antiquated truck; better still, show the architect's drawings of the completed garage.)

- **Speak and write in the active voice; be positive.**

"The garbage won't be picked up by the city until after Christmas," should be "The city will pick up your garbage the day after Christmas." Not "Street paving won't begin until spring," but "Street paving will begin in the spring." Not "Don't walk on the grass," but "Please use the sidewalks."

- **News releases need the five Ws and maybe the H.**

News releases need to answer Who, What, When, Where, Why and sometimes How. Use the active voice (Not "The report was issued that ...," but "The City Council reported ...") and non-sexist language. (Not firemen, but fire fighters, not policemen but police officers or police. Not "Ask a council member his opinion," but "Ask a council member for his or her opinion" or "Ask a council member's opinion.") Keep sentences and paragraphs short. Double or triple space news releases.

In the interview

- **Listen to the question; understand it.**

Rephrase the question if in doubt.

- **Be comfortable with silence.**

Keep quiet when you have answered the question. Watch those ad libs. That one off-hand remark will become the sound bite on television and the quote taken out of context in the newspaper, and it may not be your intended message.

- **Stay in charge.**

Watch for the loaded and leading questions, the false premise. You don't have to respond in the way a misleading question is asked. Look at interviews as marketing opportunities to sell your point of view. Know the message and come back to it repeatedly. (Have you watched presidential debates and interviews and other professionally run campaigns and seen how the candidates sometimes rephrased questions and then responded?)

- **Understand types of information.**

Off-the-record. Information NOT to be used by a reporter;

Background. Relayed by a reporter from his general knowledge and without attribution.

Not-for-attribution. May be used but that the source "asked not be identified."

(The best advice is to avoid any of these three types. Speak openly and on-the-record at all times.)

Common courtesies smooth relations with the media.

- **Be available.**
- **Leave phone numbers with reporter(s).**
- **Return reporters' calls.** Even to say you won't have the information until such and such time.
- **Remember deadlines.** They differ for broadcast reporters, for daily newspapers and weekly newspapers.
- **Read, learn, know the Freedom of Information Act (25-19-101-109).**
- **Avoid arguing the definition of news or asking to read a reporter's story.** But do offer to be available for questions when the reporter starts writing or preparing the broadcast. Your goal is to ensure that the reporter understands your message for the reading, listening, watching audiences.
- **Tell the truth and be yourself.** The reporter wants your perspective.

John Woodruff, communications coordinator and City & Town editor, was a municipal reporter for the former Arkansas Gazette from 1969 through its demise in October 1991, and previously was a reporter for the Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky., and a reporter and photographer, Northwest Arkansas Times. He earned his master's in journalism from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and his BA from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Questions? He is at 501-374-3484, Ext. 137, or jkw@arml.org.



Warren treasurer retires with 50+ years of service



Katherine Fort is the center of attention with, from left, state Rep. Gregg Reep, former mayor and former League president, John Frazier, former mayor, and current Mayor Bryan Martin.

PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

WARREN—Warren Treasurer Katherine Fort, after more than a half-century of public service, celebrated her retirement with Warren mayors past and present, and other city officials and friends on hand a few weeks ago at a reception.

“It’s been my life,” Fort said of her working for the city. She began her 13 consecutive terms in 1955, serving with Mayor Byron Herring. Fort recalled that when she first campaigned for the office, a local church invited her to speak to the congregation. “They told me to ‘come in the cool of the evening.’ I’ll never forget that,” she said. “When I woke up after I won, I thought, ‘Friends are a wonderful possession.’ It’s how I felt.”

When she started, Frazier said, the city budget was \$115,000. Now it’s \$7 million, and that doesn’t include the water department. “The thing I like about Katherine is the bank account was always balanced.”

League buildings go geothermal



Bryan Lillard, left, and Jackie Hill, of Benton-based Jones Heating and Air, install a geothermal heat pump into the ceiling at League headquarters in North Little Rock.

PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

The Arkansas Municipal League is going green, at least for its cooling and heating system, by tapping the earth’s deep resources to handle the bulk of warming the League offices at Second and Willow in North Little Rock in the winter and cooling them in the summer.

At a cost of the approximately \$264,000, conversion of League offices from conventional heating and cooling to a geothermal system, is to be complete by the end of December, League Assistant Director Ken Wasson said.

While the initial cost is generally higher than that of traditional heating and cooling systems, Wasson expects the new geothermal system will produce utility savings of \$900 to \$1,200 a month and should begin paying for itself in about five years.

The League’s 2003 annex already uses a geothermal system to heat and cool the building, and the savings have been substantial. The League Executive Committee in 2005 authorized replacing the aging, conventional air conditioning in the older parts of the offices—built in 1984 and 1988—with the geothermal system.

Geothermal systems collect heat from deep in the earth through a series of liquid-filled pipes. Indoor coil and compressor units then transfer heat throughout the building. To cool the building, the system reverses the procedure, removing heat and expelling it through the system of pipes in the ground.

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☐ Mayors/City Managers ☐ Clerks/Recorders/Treasurers ☐ City Attorneys

Announcement lists (choose all that apply):

☐ General ☐ Arkansas City Management Association ☐ Fire Chiefs ☐ Police Chiefs
☐ Legislative Advocacy ☐ Loss Control ☐ Meetings ☐ Technology
☐ Municipal Health Benefit Fund ☐ Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
☐ Municipal Vehicle Program/Municipal Property Program

Step 2:

Subscribe to the list servs by using one of the following options:

Option A: Visit www.arml.org and click on the Discussion List and Announcement List links.

Option B: Complete Step 3 and fax to 501-374-0541, attn: Whitnee Bullerwell.

Option C: Complete Step 3 and mail to Arkansas Municipal League, attn: Whitnee Bullerwell,
P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

Step 3:

Complete the following information:

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Title

Member City

E-mail Address

Daytime Phone Number

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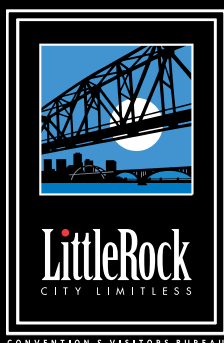
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Dear Conference Attendees:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Little Rock for the annual Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference. As always we are extraordinarily happy to have you in our fair city and are confident that you will enjoy the many and varied activities that Little Rock has to offer.

If you haven't visited the Clinton Library and Park yet, I would highly recommend you include a tour during your visit, as well as spend time exploring the many shops and restaurants which line President Clinton Avenue in the River Market District.

New shopping venues have sprung up in MidTown as well as in West Little Rock on Highway 10 and don't forget to visit the Old Statehouse and see the exhibit on Native American pottery found in Arkansas, and a new exhibit called "Pieces of My Soul" highlighting the quilts of African American Arkansans, both of which are currently on display. We have an abundance of museums and bus tours as well. I would encourage you to drop by the visitor's center at Curran Hall to learn more about the many historic homes and neighborhoods nearby.

Little Rock is a wonderful place to live and a wonderful place to do business which, coupled with a large number of recreational activities, makes Little Rock everyone's "Capitol City". Thank you for visiting Little Rock and I hope you enjoy your stay as well as the educational opportunities the conference will provide. I look forward to visiting with you during the convention.

Most sincerely,

Mark Stodola
Mayor

2007 WINTER CONFERENCE

Tentative Program

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	ACCRTA TRAININGArkansas Room Peabody Hotel
2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	REGISTRATIONOsage Room Statehouse Convention Center(SCC)
2:15 P.M.	MLWCT BOARD OF TRUSTEESMarion Room Peabody Hotel
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.,	Important Issues Concerning Workers' Compensation ReportingGrand Ballroom A Peabody Hotel <i>This session is especially important to city officials who are responsible for filing Workers' Compensation claims. Representatives from the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission will discuss how to best meet the standards on the timely reporting of Workers' Compensation claims.</i> Moderator: Mayor Lane Jean, Magnolia Speakers: Richard Lucy, Public Information Officer, Workers' Compensation Commission Cary Ross, Program Manager-Self Insurance and Third Party Administration (TPA), Workers' Compensation Commission Sheryll Lipscomb, Assistant Director, Arkansas Municipal League
2:00 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.	VISIT WITH STATE AGENCIESGovernor's Hall II <i>State agencies have been invited to set up in this area. Take time to visit with them about how their agencies might best assist your city.</i>
4:15 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.	GENERAL SESSIONGovernor's Hall I Governmental Agencies: How They Can Help <i>A panel of governmental agencies explains funding sources and assistance programs available to municipalities.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway President, Arkansas Municipal League Speakers: Sherry Davis, Division of Volunteerism Jim Smith, Arkansas Federal Surplus Property Cathie Matthews, Department of Arkansas Heritage Mark Bradley, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, T2 Lucy Thompson, Arkansas Department of Rural Services Marcus Devine, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Cary Tyson, Main Street Arkansas Sarah Breshears, State Data Center Institute for Economic Advancement Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration Arkansas Urban Forestry Council Ida Esh't, Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Steve Edwards, Arkansas Department of Correctional Industries Parks and Tourism The Grant Book Company Richard Mills, Arkansas Department of Aeronautics David Maxwell, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission
7:00 P.M.	OPENING NIGHT BANQUETWally Allen Ballroom, SCC Presiding: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway President, Arkansas Municipal League Invocation: Mayor Carl Redus, Pine Bluff Featured Speakers: Representative Benny Petrus, (invited) Speaker of the House Senator Jack Critcher President Pro Tempore of the Senate

8:30 P.M. **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**Peabody Ballrooms B&C
Come by the Peabody Ballroom to meet and visit with League President Tab Townsell, mayor of Conway, and First Vice President Mike Gaskill, mayor of Paragould. Delicious desserts and a variety of beverages will be served.

Thursday, January 11

7:15 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION OPENSExhibit Center Osage Room
7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.	VISIT WITH STATE AGENCIESExhibit Center Governor's Hall II
7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFETExhibit Center Governor's Hall II
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	OPENING GENERAL SESSIONGovernor's Hall I ADDRESS OF WELCOME: Mayor Mark Stodola, City of Little Rock Preparing for the General Assembly: Major Issues of the Session <i>The 2007 Legislative Session promises to be another important session for municipalities. A distinguished group of speakers discuss issues that could have an impact on Arkansas municipalities.</i> Presiding: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway President, Arkansas Municipal League The Future of Arkansas Water Speaker: Mark Bennett Arkansas Natural Resources Commission District Courts: Where Do We Go from Here? Speaker: Senator Shawn Womack, Mountain Home Plans for Arkansas Highways Speaker: Dan Flowers, Director, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) Proposals Speaker: David Clark, Executive Director Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System Healthy Arkansas: Why It Matters. Speaker: Joe Thompson, Director Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services The Streamline Sales Tax Speaker: TBA Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
10:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.	BREAKExhibit Center Governor's Hall I
10:45 A.M. to 12:00 p.m.	GENERAL SESSION CONT'D. Major Issues of the Session: Legislators' Perspective Moderator: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway President, Arkansas Municipal League How a Bill Becomes a Law Speaker: State Representative Gregg Reep, Warren Communicating with Your Legislator Speaker: State Representative George Overbey, Lamar Panel Discussion Legislative Panel Members: (invited) Senator Jerry Taylor, Pine Bluff Representative David Evans, Searcy Senator Irma Hunter Brown, Little Rock



Representative Bruce Maloch, Magnolia
Senator Jim Luker, Wynne
Representative Rick Saunders, Hot Springs
Senator Steve Faris, Malvern
Representative Tommy Baker, Osceola
Senator Dave Bisbee, Rogers
Senator Robert Johnson, Little Rock

12:15 P.M. **VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR . . .Peabody Ballrooms A , B & C AWARDS LUNCHEON**

The Governor has been invited to give a few remarks. At the conclusion of his remarks, the 2006 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards will be announced and the winners recognized.

Presiding: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway
President, Arkansas Municipal League
Invocation: Mayor Robert Patrick, St. Charles
Speaker: Governor Mike Beebe, State of Arkansas
Presentation of Volunteer Community of the Year Awards.

2:00 P.M. **GENERAL SESSION . . .Governor's Hall II Now That You Are Elected**

Now that you are elected, what are some of the survival skills you will need?

Presiding: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway
President, Arkansas Municipal League

Who Does What at City Hall?

Speaker: Mark Hayes, General Counsel
Arkansas Municipal League

Public Official Liability

Speaker: Nga Ostoj-Starzewski, Staff Attorney
Arkansas Municipal League

Federal Laws That Impact Your City

Speaker: David C. Schoen, Legal Counsel
Arkansas Municipal League

Understanding the FOIA

Speaker: John Woodruff, Communications Coordinator
Arkansas Municipal League

Your Municipal Budget

Speaker: Ken Wasson, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League

Municipal Retirement Issues

Speaker: Don Zimmerman, Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

Question & Answer Session (time permitting)

3:30 P.M. **BREAK**

to 3:45 P.M.

3:45 P.M. **MOCK CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

to 5:00 P.M.

City Council meetings are conducted in a variety of styles. However, there are a few basics that you should know. Plan to attend and see how the mock city council of Midtown conducts its meeting.

Time for Q&A permitted.

Participants: TBA

5:30 P.M. **RECEPTION AT THE ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER**

to 8:00 P.M.

The Arts Center offers an opportunity for those interested in the Arts to view a variety of art now on display. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. Shuttle buses will depart from Markham Street in front of the Peabody Hotel beginning at 5:15 P.M. Buses will begin to return at approximately 7:00 P.M.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

The downtown River Market is alive with activity. Visit many of the fine downtown restaurants for dinner.

Friday, January 12

7:15 A.M. **REGISTRATION OPENS . . .Exhibit Center**

7:30 A.M. **BREAKFAST BUFFET . . .Exhibit Center**
to 8:45 A.M. Governor's Hall II

8:30 A.M. **CITY ATTORNEYS . . .Riverview Room**
to 4:30 P.M. *City Attorneys will meet for six hours of Continued Legal Education.* Peabody Hotel

8:45 A.M. **GENERAL SESSION**

to 10:30 A.M. **The Arkansas Municipal League Priorities and Services**

Presiding: Mayor Mike Gaskill, Paragould
First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League
Moderator: Don Zimmerman, Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League
Speakers: Ken Wasson, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League
Mark Hayes, General Counsel
Arkansas Municipal League
Sheryll Lipscomb, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League
Al Johnson, Engineering Consultant
Arkansas Municipal League
Linda Montgomery, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League
Pat Planek, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League
Jim VonTungeln, Planning Consultant
Arkansas Municipal League

The Benefits of the 2-1-1 System: How It Can Help Your City.

Speaker: Leon Matthews, Statewide 2-1-1 Consultant
United Way of Pulaski County

Question & Answer Session (time permitting)

10:30 A.M. **BREAK . . .Governor's Hall I**
to 10:45 A.M.

10:45 A.M. **General Session Cont'd.**

to 11:45 A.M. *Words of wisdom from recently retired past Arkansas Municipal League presidents.*

Moderator: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway
President, Arkansas Municipal League
State Representative Tommy Baker, Osceola
Former Mayor Terry Coberly, Bentonville
Former Mayor Jim Dailey, Little Rock
Former Councilmember Martin Gipson, North Little Rock
Former Mayor Stewart Nelson, Morrilton

Question & Answer Session (time permitting)

11:45 A.M. **CLOSING REMARKS**

Speaker: Mayor Tab Townsell, Conway
President, Arkansas Municipal League

NOON **LUNCH BUFFET . . .Peabody Ballroom**

Other Friday Meetings:

1:00 P.M. **MHBF Board Meeting . . .Fulton Room**
SCC

LOOKING NORTH IS LOOKING GOOD!

Welcome to North Little Rock. Our city offers these points of interest and plenty of hospitality to make your stay enjoyable.

- Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum featuring tours of the USS Razorback Submarine
- Arkansas Queen Riverboat cruises from the North Shore Maritime Center
- Historic Old Mill
- Dickey-Stephens Park, new home of the Arkansas Travelers baseball team, opening April 2007
- Burns Park, one of the largest city parks in the nation
- Great shopping malls and centers, art and entertainment, plus a variety of excellent restaurants to please everyone

Let us help you plan a special event, reunion or meeting.



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



PATRICK HENRY HAYS
MAYOR
mayor@northlittlerock.ar.gov

CITY HALL
P.O. BOX 5757
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72119-5757
website: www.northlittlerock.ar.gov



Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference
January 10-12, 2007

Welcome!

As Mayor, I want to welcome you to Central Arkansas for the Winter Conference. During your stay, I hope that you have an opportunity to visit our community as it offers delightful diversions and points of interest.

Located in downtown North Little Rock is the Alltel Arena, a beautiful state-of-the-art multi-purpose facility which has all the amenities to make it a point of pride for everyone in the State. Also located in our downtown area is our Northshore Riverwalk which not only provides a panoramic view of Little Rock, but enables visitors to take a leisure stroll along the bank of the Arkansas River.

Take a step back in time and come aboard the River Rail, an electric street car trolley which operates between downtown North Little Rock and downtown Little Rock. It's a great way to see the sites offered by both communities.

A new addition to our North shore is the submarine, USS Razorback. The USS Razorback is a key component of the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. We hope that you will take the time to tour this historic vessel. For tour hours and prices, you can call the Museum at 371-8320 or visit the City's website: www.northlittlerock.ar.gov.

Want a special way to enjoy lunch or spend an evening, then take a leisurely cruise along the beautiful Arkansas River aboard the Arkansas Queen. The Arkansas Queen offers a wide variety of cruises which provides passengers a scenic view of both outstanding riverfronts. For information and cruise schedules, visit their website: www.ArkansasQueen.com. You'll be glad you did.

Naturally, we want to show you our beautiful Burns Park. At 1,575 acres, it's one of the largest city parks in the nation. Located a short distance from Burns Park, you'll find Wild River Country, the state's largest water theme park (26 acres), a place for the whole family to enjoy during the summer months.

If you're a *Gone with the Wind* fan, your eyes will glow when you visit our Old Mill Park. The photogenic Old Mill, a replica of the old grist mills seen throughout the Old South, is shown in the opening scenes of the 1939 movie classic. It's one of our most popular tourist attractions.

For non-stop shopping, visit McCain Mall, the largest shopping center (56.6 acres) in Central Arkansas and Lakewood Village, McCain's glitzy neighbor. Other shopping opportunities are Welcome located in close proximity.

We believe North Little Rock has it all and we hope you have the opportunity to sample a little or all of what our community has to offer.

On behalf of the City of North Little Rock, I send to you our best wishes and again, welcome.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Hays
Mayor

PHH:bt

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Municipal Notes

ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments

On Dec. 5, 2006, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice issued the first installment of a new technical assistance document to assist state and local officials to improve compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in their programs, services, activities, and facilities.

The new technical assistance document, *The ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments*, will be released in several installments over the next 10 months.

The *Tool Kit* is to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access.

The first installment of the ADA Tool Kit includes:

- *About This Tool Kit* (HTML)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/abouttoolkit.htm> |

<<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/abouttoolkit.pdf> (PDF)
48KB

- *Chapter 1, ADA Basics: Statutes and Regulations* (HTML)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/chap1toolkit.htm> |

<<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/chap1toolkit.pdf> (PDF)
112KB

- *Chapter 2, ADA Coordinator: Notice and Grievance Procedure* (HTML)

<<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/chap2toolkit.htm> |

<<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/chap2toolkit.pdf> (PDF)
352KB <<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/noticetoolkit.htm>

- *Chapter 2, Addendum: Title II Checklist* (HTML) |

<<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/noticetoolkit.pdf> (PDF)
64KB

While state and local governments are not required to use the *ADA Best Practices Tool Kit*, the Department encourages its use as one effective means of complying with the requirements of Title II of the ADA.

Fayetteville senior secretary achieves certification



The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) has awarded Fayetteville Senior Secretary Clarice Buffalohead-Pearman the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) for completing its high educational, experience and service requirements.

Buffalohead-Pearman has been a senior secretary since 1989, when she joined the staff of the city attorney's office. She has been in the city clerk's office since 2001 and is only the second City of Fayetteville staff member to achieve CMC status. She joins 46 Arkansas municipal clerks who currently hold the designation.

The IIMC's CMC program, launched in 1970, aids municipal clerks in improving job performance and professionalism. Completion of an IIMC-approved program or a baccalaureate degree in public administration or related field, responsible experience in local government and participation in conferences, meetings and educational seminars are required to earn the designation.

Batesville clerk achieves academy membership

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) has accepted Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, a Certified Municipal Clerk, into the Second Level Membership of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy.

The Academy provides further professional education to municipal clerks and helps them meet the challenges of the office. The Academy requires its members to acquire a specific number of points by completing IIMC and college courses, seminars and workshops. Approximately 15 percent of the IIMC's more than 10,300 members have qualified for the program.

IIMC President Marcella H. O'Connor, MMC, municipal clerk of Uralla Shire Council, Uralla, Australia, said Johnston "has demonstrated and obtained career development goals that will aid her in maintaining the quality of excellence required in today's public officials and administrators."


Huntsville alderman steps down after 58 years of service

Streets weren't even paved when Joe Boatright took his seat on the Huntsville City Council back in 1949, four years after his military service as a gunner in a bomber, mostly over Italy in World War II. But after 58 years of continuous city council service, with hardly a meeting missed, Boatright, now 87, decided not to seek re-election as alderman. His term ends Dec. 31.

His health started failing last summer and by Oct. 19, Boatright was admitted to the hospital for the first time in his life. That was just a week after he worked at his usual job of sacking groceries. "He wanted to get out and stay active," Bill Boatright, the alderman's son, told *City & Town*. "He loved

being around people."


Because of the illness, Boatright missed a reception honoring his many years of public service. "He wanted to make a positive impact on the community," the younger Boatright said of why his dad's uninterrupted serve. In the early years, he had a few opponents, but generally, he ran unopposed. Alderman Boatright is back home now, recuperating under his son's care.

Streets are paved in this Madison County city of almost 2,000 and many other city council-ordered improvements have been made over the years. "He attended almost every meeting they had," the younger Boatright said. 

Sign up for new clerk orientation, Jan. 10

Newly elected city clerks who would like to "kick start" their careers and city clerks who would like to enhance their careers are encouraged to sign up for the New Clerk Orientation, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 10, at the Peabody Hotel, Little Rock. Diane Whitbey, North Little Rock city clerk, has announced.

Whitbey, president of the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association Arkansas said the program highlights are: Duties of the clerk, recorder and treasurer; professional organizations; ordinances and resolutions; agendas, packets and minutes and financial matters.

Registration is free to newly elected or current city clerks, recorders or treasurers; lunch and breaks are included. Guests pay \$10 at the door. Whitbey asked that you call her at 501-340-5317 by Jan. 5. The orientation is sponsored by the University of Arkansas School of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach, the ACCRTA and presented as part of the Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference, Jan. 10-12, at the Peabody. 

WHO
you gonna
CALL?

We don't know either, without your help. Fill out the Directory Information Request Forms and return them to the League. Watch for the new Directory in early 2007.

Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas.

From the Office of Attorney General Mike Beebe

Municipal employee discounts OK

Opinion: 2006-179

Requestor: Higginbothom, Steve—State Senator

If a city has a wellness program for its employees, is it legal to give them a special discounted membership? Q2) If the answer to q1 is “yes,” is it also legal for a city to give employees a special discount membership to the city multi-purpose and wellness center even if there is no city wellness program in place? **RESPONSE:** “Yes” in response to both questions. I believe either of the proposals set forth in your questions would fall well within the scope of a city’s police powers and would not offend the equal protection doctrine.

Alderman’s votes OK after outside-city move

Opinion 2006-186

Requestor: Boyce, Henry H.—State Representative

Assume a duly elected alderman moves outside the city limits of the township he serves and subsequently casts several votes, including a vote to issue municipal bonds in order to fund a new fire station. Did the alderman’s move outside the city limits nullify his authority to vote and pass local legislation as an alderman? Q2) If the alderman’s vote was the deciding vote and he is serving illegally, then is the legislation he helped pass invalid? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, generally, an alderman that has moved outside the ward that he or she represents will likely be considered a de facto officer and actions taken by the alderman as a de facto officer will be upheld. The validity of acts of a de facto officer is the same as a de jure officer and the mere existence of de facto status does not invalidate his or her actions. It is a question of fact, however, that can only be determined by examination of the intent of the alderman as to whether the alderman has ceased to reside, or be “domiciled,” within the ward he or she represents for the purposes of eligibility under A.C.A. 14-43-310 (Repl. 1998) (addressing cities of the first class) or 14-44-103(b)(2) (Supp 2005) (addressing cities of the second class).

Records closed pending disciplining

Opinion 2006-215

Requestor: Mittiga, Joseph—
Public Affairs Officer, LRSD

Is the decision of the custodian of records to withhold release of a letter of suspension and recommendation of termination, and an e-mail relating to the disciplinary recommendation, citing no final administrative resolution, consistent with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act

(FOIA)? **RESPONSE:** Yes. A notice of suspension or termination that sets forth the reasons for taking the disciplinary action falls within the exemption for employee evaluation or job performance records. The same is true of records of disciplinary recommendations. Because there has been no final administrative resolution of any suspension or termination proceeding, the documents were properly withheld.

‘Hamburger tax’ can’t fund visitors bureau

Opinion: 2006-207

Requestor: Edwards, Marilyn—State Representative

Q1) Can a city buy a building with Hotel, Motel & Restaurant funds [“hamburger tax” funds] and the Advertising and Promotion (“A&P”) Commission administer the building? Is a lease required for such an arrangement? Q2) Can a city purchase [a building] with cash from [hamburger tax] funds for use by the A&P Commission as a visitors bureau? Is a lease required for such arrangement? Q3) Can a nonprofit entity purchase property with [hamburger tax] funds for a tourist promotion facility if the Commission approves the project? Q4) Can the A&P Commission contract with a nonprofit entity to purchase a building for use as a visitors bureau? **RESPONSE:** Q1) I believe a city could clearly buy a building using revenues realized from a hamburger tax so long as its A&P commission approved doing so and it only pledged the funds as collateral for bonds issued pursuant to either the Advertising and Promotion Commission Act, ACA 26-75-601 through -618 (Repl. 1997 & Supp. 2005), or the subchapter of the Code authorizing the issuance of tourism revenue bonds, ACA 14-170-201 through -214 (Repl. 1998). Although the Code would benefit by legislative clarification, I doubt a city is statutorily authorized directly to purchase a building using hamburger tax revenues even if the A&P approves the purchase. I believe an A&P commission could “administer” the building only to the extent that doing so would fulfill the purposes set forth at ACA 26-75-606 (Supp. 2005). The law is unclear regarding the necessity of a lease in order for an A&P commission to make use of city property. A factual issue further exists as to whether “administering” the building would involve activities that might warrant entering into a lease. Q2) I believe the answer to the first part of your second question is, in all likelihood, “no,” rendering the second part of this question moot. Q3) I believe any gratuitous transfer of the funds to finance a purchase of the property by a private nonprofit corporation would be barred by Ark. Const. art. 12, Sec. 5. I further do not believe an A&P commission is statutorily authorized to

Little Rock 311 phone line activated

Little Rock residents, businesses and visitors needing non-emergency city government assistance have a new number to dial: 311. The new service, activated Jan. 2 and funded by a bond issue passed by voters in 2004, is part of the city's effort to make government more responsive to residents' needs.

The service is designed to supplement and relieve pressure on the 911 emergency system. According to Little Rock Police Chief Stuart Thomas, in the last six months 911 received 149,550 non-emergency calls, or about 60 percent of all 911 calls. These calls can now be diverted to the 311 system, Thomas said. By dialing 311 for non-emergencies, residents can speak with a city customer service agent who will provide information or assign a tracking number to an inquiry that requires action. Callers may follow up on the status of 311 requests using the tracking number.

Examples of non-emergency reports include private property accidents with no injuries, delayed thefts, lost or stolen license plates, credit card fraud and abandoned vehicles on private property. Residents may also dial 311 to request information about city services such as street maintenance and repair, trash pick-up, and locations and hours of city properties. Persons requiring immediate emergency assistance should call 911.

Customer service agents will answer calls to 311 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours non-emergency police reports can be made by calling 501-371-4617.

enter into a contract that would entail such a transfer of funds. Q4) In accordance with my response to your third question, "no."

Job applications open records

Opinion: 2006-218

Requestor: Wilson, Odies III c/o Stacey Witherell,
City of Little Rock

Is the decision of the custodian of records to release a city employee's application for employment, along with any other public information that the Human Resources Department maintains, consistent with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)? **RESPONSE:** Assuming the employment application does not contain any information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy, and the custodian has only determined to release "public" information as requested, it is my opinion that the custodian's decision is consistent with the FOIA.

311 serves San Antonio well, study shows

WASHINGTON—In less than six years, the City of San Antonio has more than doubled the number of customer service calls the city receives while cutting the number of calls it loses in half, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has reported. The success of San Antonio's 311 system in responding to its citizens' needs and the lessons drawn from that city's experiences with 311 are detailed in a new case study report, "San Antonio Customer Service 311 Call Center Department," released recently by the ICMA, a local government leadership and management organization.

The 311-customer service systems allow the public to access their local government with such non-emergency calls as loss of water service, stray animals, and potholes. The systems provide crucial community feedback on what information citizens most need and want from their local government.

The report highlights how San Antonio integrated its existing work order systems to create the new 311 call center. The report covers how new data are being generated by the system, and in turn, used by city departments to improve performance. San Antonio's use of service level agreements to ensure city departments respond to service requests in a timely manner is also discussed.

San Antonio Assistant City Manager and Chief Information Officer Michael Armstrong describes the 311 system as win-win for the city and its residents. "I think the citizens get something that's really useful for them, and [local government managers] get another way to begin to understand what's out there...I'm a great believer. It should be one of the core functions of government at all levels."

The San Antonio case study is part of a larger national effort funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The initiative also involves the first national survey of local governments on their use of 311 and other customer service technology. The national survey, which will be conducted in the first quarter of 2007, will explore successful implementation of these systems and how they are being used to respond to citizen needs and strengthen local government-constituent relationships. The survey also will examine potential barriers to the implementation of these systems.

To view the 311 customer service system study, visit www.ICMA.org/311study.

Reviewing planning basics starts the new year

State law clearly states that first the city or town plans and then regulates.

By Jim vonTungeln, Staff Planning Consultant, American Institute of Certified Planners

For all the new folks, and especially for us older ones who may think we know everything, I dedicate this issue to understanding some basics of planning administration in our state.

Why? An urban scholar once told me that newly elected officials, in their zeal to “clean up Dodge City,” often go through a process called the “Uh huh-Oh Syndrome.” That is to say that before they are elected they point at all sorts of things and say, with an accusing tone, “Uh-huh!” Then after they are in office and see how things actually work, they shrug and say “Oh.”

I find that to be especially true in planning, zoning, and subdivision administration. A quick review might provide us all with an “oh” or two.

Cities in Arkansas do not have to plan or regulate land use. The statutes are permissive, not mandatory. If a city council or board decides to get into planning, however, the situation changes. Then the statutes are mandatory in that every city must follow the same set of rules. Planning statutes begin in the Arkansas Codes, Annotated, (ACA) at § 14-56-401 and proceed through § 14-56-426.

I shan’t repeat each section, but § 14-56-402 seems noteworthy partly for its brevity and, more so, for its breadth. It states: “*Cities of the first and second class and incorporated towns shall have the power to adopt and enforce plans for the coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the municipality and its environs.*”

There you have it. You have the right to plan and control the development of your community. Legal scholars tell me it is an ancient right based on the common law principle that a community *may protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of its citizens.*

Planning commissioners who remember this principle should encounter few problems in either preparing plans or administering regulations designed to carry out or protect those plans. For elected officials, the principle also provides a good guideline for keeping your city out of court.

Elected officials appoint a planning commission, which carries out the major tasks. The commission operates under a number of requirements for developing a plan. One of the most confusing and critical is that of

establishing a planning area. This may simply be the area within the city limits, or it may include additional portions of the city’s territorial jurisdiction, which may extend as far as five miles beyond the city’s corporate limits. An important fact to remember is that the planning commission must prepare a planning area map and file copies with the city clerk county recorder.

Details of the planning commission’s responsibilities and the requirements of a planning area map appear in ACA §§ 14-56-412 and 14-56-413.

One of the most common failures of elected officials and planning commissions is the lack of understanding between planning and regulating. Put simply: First you plan, and then you regulate. This relationship resounds clearly in ACA § 14-56-416 (a)(1), which states: *Following adoption and filing of the land use plan, the commission may prepare for submission to the legislative body a recommended zoning ordinance for the entire area of the municipality.*

In other words, the zoning ordinance exists in contemplation of carrying out or protecting the provisions of the city’s plan(s.) Similar language governing the adoption of development (subdivision) regulations appears in ACA § 14-56-417 (a) (1).

City plans that are severely outdated or, worse, not to be found, open the door for someone to challenge the supporting regulations. Plans should provide a defensible basis for protecting the health, safety, welfare and morals of the community. So have your city attorney look over your documents and advise you of their validity.

The study of urban planning can fill a lifetime. This summary only provides a cursory look at Arkansas planning statutes. It does, though, mention the requirements that, in my opinion, cause the most trouble. In summary:

- A city chooses whether or not to engage in planning and regulation;
- After a city opts in, state statutes govern the process;
- The planning commission undertakes the planning and administration function;
- The planning area can extend beyond the city limits; and

- The plan is a requirement for, and the basis of, zoning and development regulation.

Finally, one might ask why we should even bother with planning. Just remember that it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.



Persons having comments or questions may reach Jim vonTungeln at 501-372-3232. His Web site is www.planyourcity.com. He is available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League.

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Vaccination tempers distemper

With recent increases of infection reported, it's more important than ever to vaccinate pets against distemper and to pay attention to the virus's warning signs.

By Tracy Roark

Over the last couple of years there has been a noticeable increase in canine distemper.

Distemper is caused by a virus and usually begins with a runny nose and coughing, accompanied usually by eye discharge, poor appetite, fever and possibly vomiting. A roughness of the pads on the feet and nose will occur before it turns into a neurological disorder, which will include seizures, tremors and a chewing motion.

This virus is spread typically from an infected animal to another animal via coughing and body secretions. The early signs of this virus are similar to tracheobronchitis, or "kennel cough," and are often misdiagnosed as bordetella.

In kennels, because of this common misdiagnosis, distemper is usually treated with an antibiotic, which appears to be the cure for the infection, but later will turn neurological.

The first symptoms include gooey eyes with discharge, nasal congestion and discharge and coughing. Antibiotics seem to help these first symptoms, and the animal will recover for a couple of weeks. But later symptoms will include roughening of the nose and footpads. Later signs will be of the neurological phase and will include seizures and a chewing motion.

Infected dogs are most contagious during the first two weeks of infection but can spread the virus up to two to three months.

The general timeframe for the virus will be:

- Mucosal Phase: 10+ days after contracting the virus. This phase will last generally two weeks.

- Neurological Phase: one to three weeks after the mucosal phase. This phase may result in recovery, permanent tremors or disfigurement, or death.
- Adult Dog Distemper: Some dogs that recovered as puppies will break with neurodistemper later in life.

This virus can be eliminated with a vaccination. Kennels should take on the responsibility of vaccinating all incoming animals, which should result in a reduction in the number of animals that contract this virus. The vaccination will almost eliminate the chances that a dog will contract the virus from other animals within the shelter. Although this should eliminate the spread within the shelter, it will not prevent animals already with the virus from coming down with the symptoms.

Over the past two years, we have seen the increase in infection begin in spring and fall of the year. It starts with sick dogs being picked up and calls about raccoons out during the day and acting confused. The symptoms of the virus will occur in the weaker animals with little or no veterinarian care and finally progress onto healthier animals that have not been vaccinated.

This virus is preventable. It is key to inform the public that distemper has reappeared, because too many animals are not receiving their vaccinations.

Tracy Roark is manager of Little Rock Animal Services.

Municipalities must publish semiannual financial statements

The time is rapidly arriving for the semiannual reporting of each city's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2005-'06 ed. Section 14-59-116, pg. 598, and Section 14-237-113, pg. 845.

The first reference provides that the governing body of each municipality shall publish semiannually in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the municipality a **FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY** by March 1 covering the final six months (July through the end of December) of the last calendar year.

The financial statements should include the receipts and expenditures for the six-month period and also a statement of the indebtedness and financial condition of the municipality.

The latter law, 14-237-113, provides a similar publication requirement for the operating authority of the **WATER and SEWER DEPARTMENTS**. Water and sewer departments administered by one or two commissions must comply with the law. If the water and sewer departments are administered by the city council, then it is the responsibility of the city council to comply with Section 14-237-113.

Suggested Forms A, B and C follow. For additional information, call the League at 501-374-3484.

Form A		
City of _____ (first or second class) Financial Statement July 1, 2006-Dec. 31, 2006		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance July 1, 2006		\$ _____
Cash Receipts		
General Turnback	\$ _____	
5-Mill Tax	\$ _____	
Franchise Tax	\$ _____	
Occupation Tax	\$ _____	
Liquor and Beer Tax	\$ _____	
Local Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
Other City Taxes	\$ _____	
Court Fines and Fees	\$ _____	
Sanitation Charges	\$ _____	
Other Permits and Charges	\$ _____	
Total Receipts		\$ _____
Total General Fund Available		\$ _____
Expenditures		
Administrative Expense	\$ _____	
Salaries	\$ _____	
Social Security	\$ _____	
Utilities	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Fixed Assets	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures		\$ _____
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2006		\$ _____
STREET FUND		
Balance July 1, 2006		\$ _____
State Highway Revenue	\$ _____	
County Road Tax	\$ _____	
Other Street Revenues	\$ _____	
Total Street Revenues		\$ _____
Total Available Street Fund		\$ _____
Expenditures		
Salaries	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures		\$ _____
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2006		\$ _____
In the event a municipality maintains a police, fire, parks or other department, the city should publish financial statements for these departments in the same manner as they separate those departments on their Cash Receipts and Disbursements Journals.		
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
General Obligation	\$ _____	
Water Revenue		
Sewer Revenue		
Other		
Total	\$ _____	Date Free of Debt _____
All financial records for the City of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of _____ A.M. to _____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at City Hall in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

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

The suggested **FORM B** is for use by incorporated towns to comply with 14-59-116. It may be posted in five (5) public places rather than published in towns where no newspaper is published.

Form B		
Incorporated Town of _____ (incorporated town) Financial Statement July 1, 2006-Dec. 31, 2006		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance July 1, 2006		\$ _____
Cash Receipts		
State General Turnback	\$ _____	
Local Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
City General Taxes	\$ _____	
Other Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Receipts		\$ _____
Total General Fund Available		\$ _____
Expenditures		
Salaries	\$ _____	
Utilities	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Fixed Assets	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures		\$ _____
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2006		\$ _____
STREET FUND		
Balance July 1, 2006		\$ _____
State Highway Revenue	\$ _____	
County Road Tax	\$ _____	
Other Street Revenues	\$ _____	
Total Street Revenues		\$ _____
Total Available Street Fund		\$ _____
Expenditures		
Salaries	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures		\$ _____
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2006		\$ _____
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Water Revenue	\$ _____	
Sewer Revenue		
Other		
Total	\$ _____	Date Free of Debt _____
All financial records for the Town of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of _____ A.M. to _____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at Town Hall in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

(see **Semiannual** page 29)

Does Arkansas measure up economically to Mississippi's growth?

"Community change starts with the idea/opportunity when the individual or small group has the vision and understands that no idea can come to fruition until it involves the community."

By Sherman Banks

A strong healthy community is the roadmap for bringing both foreign and domestic industry to a community.

Just consider our neighboring state of Mississippi. In the last 10 years Mississippi, one of the poorest states, has received national attention for its continued impressive record of economic development. One Mississippi city in particular that showed more growth was Tupelo.

This caught the eye of the Kettering Foundation and the National Public Radio. *All Things Considered* reported on NPR that one of the guiding principles in Mississippi and especially in Tupelo was that community development came before economic development.

The old joke, "Thank God for Mississippi," may no longer apply because Mississippi continues to move ahead educationally and economically. A study done by the Harwood Group several years ago about the health of a community suggested that a community hoping to build its own civic life should consider:

- Civic infrastructure;
- Particular processes such as civic learning and community decision making;
- The nature of the leadership in the community;
- The mindset or the principles that inform civic action;
- The relationship of citizens to institutions; and
- Intangibles such as a sense of community and norms or citizenship.

I think that sometimes our civic leaders lose sight of what healthy community development means.

Vaughn Grisham, a sociologist at the University of Mississippi, says a community can be defined as: (1) a place to which people become tied; (2) a place of people, institutions and systems; and (3) a system of interaction, the characteristic that distinguishes a community from a town. Grisham said, "Anything that improves the ability of a community to act is community development."

Community leaders should focus on the development of human resources, leadership, organizations and community involvement because these are the elements that lead to economic growth. You can see from the

cities of Conway, Fort Smith, Hot Springs and our capital city of Little Rock that the kind of growth they have experienced in the last five years is because strong community efforts were made to heal the ills of their respective communities.

When a municipality develops an international market, trust must be built, and that same trust must be true for community leaders. It is important for civic leaders to talk with people, not just give speeches. One-on-one, person-to-person communication will lead to communicating with small groups and then larger groups. This process can be tedious and will take time, but if consistency is maintained with sincerity, trust will come. Keep in mind that everyone in the community may not share the same concepts of social justice. Also, it may be necessary to convince the private sector that its contributions to the community are not a gift, but a meaningful and worthwhile investment.

Like Mississippi, Arkansas is considerably rural, so an emphasis needs to be given to the small towns and rural communities to ensure the growth of the state. Many attempts are made by states and communities to bring about economic development without sufficient emphasis on this, and thus they experience setbacks that divide the community. Some cities have made economic development attempts at economic development without first attending to the ills of the community. The attempts ultimately failed until the community was brought into the picture, which led to the changes we are experiencing today.

It certainly is not my place as a non-elected official to tell elected officials how to be leaders in your community, but as a citizen who has experienced failures in my own community, I can make suggestions as to what makes for a success.

Success within a community is generally a collaboration of an idea/opportunity being introduced by an individual. The individual—or a small group of people—acts as the motivator. Community change starts with the idea/opportunity when the individual or small group has the vision and understands that no idea can

come to fruition until it involves the community. The road to change is bumpy and long, but consistency in purpose will ultimately yield success.



To learn more on economic development through a healthy community, please contact Sherman Banks at 501-376-8193, Fax: 501-372-6564 or e-mail sbanks@aristotle.net, P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

Obituaries

Jack Hill, 77, a former Russellville alderman who served 28 years and briefly as interim mayor, died Dec. 13.

Patty L. House, 77, a member of the Ozark City Council, died Dec. 20.

Dorothy Moss Keith, 80, city clerk/treasurer for Malvern from 1957 until 1980, died Dec. 25.

Harry L. Oswald, 91, a former mayor of Winchester and a pioneer in rural electrification in Arkansas, died Dec. 18. He was the youngest mayor in the state at the age of 21.

Semiannual continued from page 27

The suggested **FORM C** is for use by Water and Sewer Departments to comply with 14-237-113.

Form C			
City or Town of _____			
Financial Statement July 1, 2006-Dec. 31, 2006			
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS			
Balance July 1, 2006		\$ _____	
Cash Receipts			
Water Payments	\$ _____		
Sewer Payments	\$ _____		
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____		
Other	\$ _____		
Total Receipts		\$ _____	
Total Funds Available		\$ _____	
Expenditures			
Salaries	\$ _____		
Social Security	\$ _____		
Supplies	\$ _____		
Fixed Assets	\$ _____		
Other	\$ _____		
Total Expenditures		\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2006		\$ _____	
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS			
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due	
General Obligation	\$ _____		
(Water or Sewer)			
Water Revenue			
Sewer Revenue			
Other			
		Date Free of Debt	
Total	\$ _____		
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of _____ A.M. to _____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas.			
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.			



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FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0026	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0028	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0033	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0037	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.004	X	covered value	=	Premium
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For more information, call Linda Montgomery at League headquarters, 501-978-6123 or 501-374-3484, ext. 233.

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American sweet gum does not get enough respect.

Get past the sweet gum balls and you'll find a fantastic tree with leaves that turn spectacular fall colors of green, yellow, red and purple but sometimes solid crimson, burgundy or scarlet.

By John Slater



Give the hardy sweet gum tree a chance, and the rewards come in the fall with an array of colors.

According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, the sweet gum tree is considered an ornamental tree, as well as a shade tree. By others in the landscape business, it is valued as a specimen or focal point tree. It is an excellent lawn, park or street tree. Some other common names are redgum, star-leaf gum and alligator tree.

When you talk to most people about sweet gum trees, they focus only on the gum balls, those sharp, pointy, spiny seed balls produced by the tree. Gum balls are the only downside to this otherwise great tree.

Here are a couple of quotes of Norman Winter, Mississippi State University horticulturist, Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center: "I tell people still concerned about the sweet gum balls to wear shoes and think of them like acorns or pine cones. The sweet gum is too good a tree to pass up. And please do not send offers for me to buy any bridges, either ..."

"If you are still rolling in laughter at my promoting the sweet gum, here is more feed for your hysteria.

People in Fort Worth and Dallas spend hundreds of dollars adding sulfur to help acidify their soil so they can grow sweet gums. Why? Because it is a great tree!"

I agree with Winter; it is a great tree and one of the most colorful fall tree there is. I look forward to that deep, glossy green star-shaped leaf that turns a spectacular fall color, many times a combination of green, yellow, red and purple but sometimes solid crimson, burgundy or scarlet. You will not find another tree that offers such color variety.

A mature sweet gum, grown in the open, grows beautifully symmetrical, with a cone-shaped crown that becomes more rounded as it ages. I have thought how nice it would look to have a row of sweet gum trees behind the outfield fence of a baseball field. Their nice shape and dark green leaf could be enjoyed in the spring, and in the fall they would provide breathtaking color. As long as they are planted

about 15-20 feet from the fence, there would be no gum-balls on the field.

Sweetgum is a medium- to fast-growing tree, which can reach heights of 60 -100 feet, with a trunk two to four feet in diameter. The bark is gray and deeply furrowed into narrow, scaly ridges (hence the name alligator tree). It is native to the entire state so it can be planted anywhere. It likes partial shade but can be grown in full sun. The sweet gum grows in acidic, loamy, moist, well-drained, wet, wide-range, clay soils. The tree likes moist soil but is able to tolerate moderate drought conditions. It has very few insect and disease problems.

Wildlife

The notorious gum balls despised by all are not so bad when you consider their benefits. It takes about 15-20 years for the tree to start producing fruit or flowers. If you think of gum balls as seed balls, they are easier to accept. These seed balls are eaten by over 25 varieties of birds, including eastern gold finches, purple finches,

sparrows, doves and northern bobwhites. Red and gray squirrels and chipmunks also enjoy the fruits and seeds.

The Sap

In earlier times, kids in the South found their chewing gum in the woods. They looked for the tree with unusual star-shaped leaves and bark that resembled alligator skin and pried off the bark. They popped the fragrant, resinous yellowish-brown balls into their mouths to enjoy the licorice-like flavor. This is how the tree got its name. The yellow-bellied sapsucker (a woodpecker that drills holes in a straight line across the trunk of a tree) also enjoys the sap of the tree.

The Fruitless Variety

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba' is the fruitless variety of sweet gum. Unlike the native sweet gum's pointed leaves, the fruitless sweet gum's leaves are rounded. The fruitless sweet gum should be planted in full sun where it gets summer moisture.

In spring, as new leaves begin to form, prune to maintain a straight trunk. Fall color is variable on this grafted tree. Some years it will shade toward the yellow and orange range, other years toward deep burgundy. Young trees go through gawky stages, so they need early attention to improve their form. A second problem has been in growing a symmetrical tree. Older trees can

reach 50 feet in height, with an upright form that tends to be more open and erect than the typical sweet gum.

Right Tree-Right Place

I recommend planting sweet gum trees in places where foot traffic is minimal, as a border tree, along a walking trail or along a road or highway. They can be planted near a picnic area where you could enjoy seeing them but not in the picnic area itself.

You can find fault with any tree. The trick is to find something good about it and use it to your advantage. I talk to people all the time who have strong feelings about certain trees. The secret to making everyone happy is planting different kinds of trees. Think before you plant. Look at the tree's attributes and where it will be planted to do the most good.

For more information on other trees that grow well in Arkansas, go to our Web site at www.forestry.state.ar.us and select "Community Forestry."

Make a Memory ... Plant a Tree



John Slater is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact him at 501-984-5867, or at john.slater@arkansas.gov.

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Newsletter

JANUARY 2007

The Newsletter, provided by a'TEST consultants, is included in City & Town as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program.

IS AMERICA BECOMING A CHEATING NATION?

By Judy Sims, a'TEST president

An article in an old magazine read recently caught my attention as it discussed America as a nation of cheaters. That topic was very disturbing to me—and, yet, there have been recent incidences that bring to light that dishonesty does prevail in our country and our workplaces.

As I read, I jotted notes for the a'TEST newsletter. The first point made by the author, Michael Josephson, president of the Josephson Institute on Ethics—a non-profit organization that conducts business ethics training and character education—is that we should not expect this troubling situation to change soon. In fact, who knows if the situation can improve or if it will continue to decline?

The study was based on the institute's survey of more than 36,000 high school students, and the results were released recently. Some of the findings:

- 61 percent of the students admitted to cheating on an exam in the past year
- 28 percent admitted to stealing from a store
- 23 percent stole from a relative or parent
- 39 percent have lied to save money

Will these students take this cheating or stealing behavior into the workforce? With less than 2 percent of the students being caught cheating or stealing, and, ultimately, only half of those ever punished, there does not seem to be much of a deterrent.

Teachers and employers need to take responsibility to correct such behaviors with disciplinary action. If parents do not teach the importance of ethics and character to their children, others may be required to assume this role at school or the workplace.

Let's find way to change this message to read, America—An Ethical Nation!

DRUGS COMPETE WITH ALCOHOL AS FACTOR IN CAR CRASHES

A Dec, 7, 2006, article in *The Charleston Gazette*, states that the national

focus on the dangers of drinking and driving may have overshadowed a similarly serious problem—the effects of drugs on drivers. The study includes problems with prescription drugs.

A federal study released by the West Virginia Medical Examiners to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that drugs turn up almost as frequently as alcohol in the victims of fatal car crashes. The drugs found most often have been prescription medications (painkillers, depressants, anti-depressants).

From the West Virginia study, the CDC drew the conclusion that prescription drugs are a major culprit in many fatal accidents. Lots of states do not perform tests on victims of fatal crashes to see if anything beyond alcohol has contributed to the accident. The study has now provided some valuable data for comparisons.

In West Virginia, the regular testing has enabled the CDC to determine that drugs are found in 25.8 percent of

people killed in wrecks. That's similar to the percentage of victims found with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit—which is about 27.7 percent. These results suggest that drug use contributes significantly to driver impairment in West Virginia, according to the report.

From 2004 and 2005, the report found that 784 people died in car crashes in the West Virginia. Drug and alcohol tests were performed on 84 percent of those killed. Nearly half of the people killed had either alcohol or drugs in their system, while 11 percent had both.

The drugs found most often by the medical examiners were prescription medications, usually opioid painkillers like hydrocodone and oxycodone or depressants. The illicit drug most often found was marijuana in 8.5 percent of all victims.

Results such as these reinforce the need for educating the public about the dangers of drugs—including prescription drugs—and driving. Prevention programs like those for alcohol and drunken driving should be instituted to save lives.

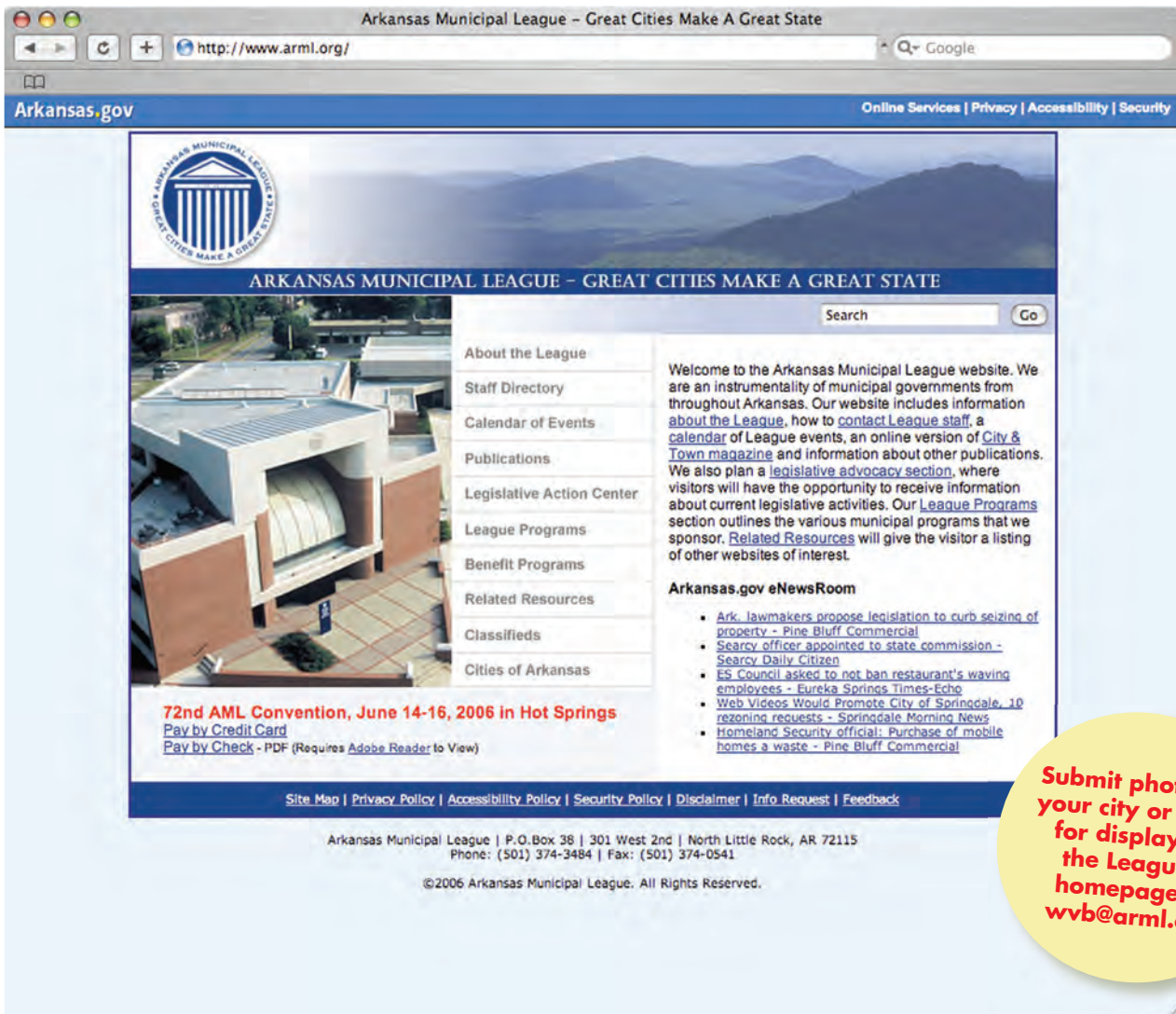
The Arkansas Crime Laboratory does alcohol and drug testing for victims of fatal crashes.



a'TEST CONSULTANTS, Inc., provides drug and alcohol testing as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program. The program helps cities and towns comply with the U. S. Department of Transportation required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.

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- eNewsRoom offers online news articles from Arkansas's municipalities' dailies.
- *City & Town* is available to download in its entirety in PDF from the *Publications* page.
- *Cities of Arkansas* local government portal page gives visitors a sneak peek at the quality of life in the municipalities across Arkansas.
- Flyout menus provide easier navigation and cut down on search time.
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Keep checking back ...

- *e.LocalLink*, interactive videos provided by CGI Communications, will include a welcome to the League's Web site from Executive Director Don Zimmerman and an Introduction to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- *eCart*, order and pay for publications and mailing lists online.
- *Legislative Action Center* will be home to legislative matters, including a new *Legislative Bulletin*.

The problem with being overweight is that it wasn't the holidays

It's important that people have access to safe walking paths, such as sidewalks, and their local community pool, school gymnasium and track.

By Vitaly Kantorovich, M.D.

Now that the holidays are about over, you, like a lot of people, may be upset by your lack of discipline when so much good food and drink were at your fingertips.

For those with normal or close-to-normal weight, a couple of pounds gained over the holidays will mean more exercise and meal discipline for upcoming weeks, but for those who were overweight before the holidays, more significant changes in their lifestyle are in order.

Counting Calories

If you happen to be in the latter category, most likely you want to lose weight but may be discouraged by the lack of control both in general and throughout the holiday season. Although holidays are all about good food and being with family, don't disregard the fact that it is quite easy to consume 5,000 calories per day. That's a lot, and most of it is unnecessary! On the other hand, you should not worry so much about your dietary mishaps over the holidays; focus, instead, on what you typically eat each day the rest of the year. The best way to do so is to record what you eat and track your daily calorie intake over several weeks. This is a great way to begin understanding the principle of consuming too many calories and consuming oversized portions.

Beginning to Exercise

Anyone who is overweight knows he or she needs to exercise, but there are barriers—some real, some perceived—that keep exercise on the back burner. So rather than telling my patients that they need to exercise, I try to help find ways around their barriers.

Motivation to exercise is significant, so I ask them to consider exercise in the context of their life's goals and responsibilities. For example, do they consider it a responsibility to be around for their children, their spouse and their grandchildren and be in the best possible shape?

When the motivation is meaningful, people are more likely to make a deeper commitment to a healthier lifestyle.

Free time is a luxury for anyone juggling a career and family, so for busy patients, we often look at how they spend their lunch hour at work. Could they take 20 minutes to walk in or around their building? Could they park their car so that it takes 10 minutes to walk to their building, or take the stairs instead of the elevator?

For those who are overweight but otherwise healthy I recommend moderate to brisk walking for 30-40 minutes a day five or six times a week. On the other hand, any aerobic exercise of this intensity will do as well.

Severe obesity and health issues like arthritis and heart disease raise other barriers to exercise. For some of our least-healthy patients, we recommend swimming and walking in a pool. The water reduces stress on hips and knees, and the resistance provides an excellent workout.

For all beginning exercisers, it's important that you don't overdo. Start with aerobic exercise well within your comfort zone. And talk to your doctor before you start—there may be significant restrictions that you forgot to consider.

How Communities Can Help

People who are trying to lose weight need support from many sources, including their communities. Many people lack the income to afford a gym or swimming pool membership, so it's important that people have access to safe walking paths, such as sidewalks and their local community pool, school gymnasium and track.

Communities with these resources could do a tremendous public service by setting aside times for their residents to exercise in these facilities.



Vitaly Kantorovich, M.D., is assistant professor of medicine, College of Medicine, and director, Weight Control Program, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

City & Town

Index 2002-2006

SAVE THIS INDEX AND USE IT TO RESEARCH PAST ARTICLES BACK TO 2001; THEN SAVE NEW COPIES OF *CITY & TOWN* AND THOSE ARTICLES WILL BE IN THE 2007 INDEX IN JANUARY 2008.

Advertising and Promotion

Expenditures authority-Oct. '03, p.15; use Oct. '03, p.28
Purchases-Jan. '03, p.15
Queries-Jan. '03, p.14
Residency-Dec. '03, p.12
Tax per purchase-Oct. '03, p.28

All-America City

Competition-Dec. '02, p.18;
Feb. '04, p.11; Nov. '05, p.27

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Test before assuming-May '05, p.27

Amendment 3

Berryville cuts-Sept. '02, p.23
Challenges ballot-Sept. '02, p.8
Cities, sales tax-Oct. '02, p.19
Complaint filed-Sept. '02, p.8
District meeting discussions-Oct. '02, p.6
Editorial, Keeping Tax Fairer-Oct. '02, p.11
Frequently Asked Questions-Sept. '02, p.7
New reports, Arkansas-Oct. '02, p.10
Overview-Nov. '02, p.6
Piggott sales tax-Sept. '02, p.22
Resolution-Sept. '02, p.6
Voting map-Nov. '02, p.7
Warnings-Oct. '02, p.8

Animal Control

ASACA certification-May '06, p.21
Event-May '04, p.24; Programs-March '04, p.24
Animal Control by contract-April '02, p.16
Animal Control Officers-Feb. '05, p.34
Battles, Benny honored-Oct. '06, p.18
Building program-July '02, p.28; Feb. '02, p.18; Sept. '03, p.24
Burrowing pests-March '06, p.40
Control considered-Dec. '05, p.30
Choking-Dec. '02, p.18
Containing city wildlife-Aug. '05, p.34
Conway, new policy-July '04, p.38;
Dog parks-July '05, p.38
Dogcatcher obsolete-Aug. '03, p.12
Donating items-Nov. '05, p.38
Farm animals gone wild-Feb. '04, p.22
Financial assistance, availability-July '06, p.36
Free-range cats-March '05, p.34
Horseshoe Bend-Sept. '04, p.30.
Job satisfaction-March '02, p.16
Low-income owners-Nov. '02, p.16; Oct. '03, p.10
Military pet care-April '03, p.32
NLR adoption trailer-March '03, p.15
No Kill Policy-June '02, p.14
North Shore Animal League-May '03, p.29;
March '05, p.34; June '05, p.34
Nuisances-Jan. '03, p.22; due process req.-April '06, p.42
Ordinances-Jan. '02, p.20
Outreach programs-Jan. '04, p.26
Peddlers-June '06, p.26
Pet licensing-Nov. '02, p.16
Pet ownership, trends-Aug. '04, p.22;
responsibilities-Nov. '06, p.26; Dec. '06, p.26
Pet therapy-Aug. '06, p.22
Pit bulls-June '04, p.22; Jan. '05, p.30;
ban's success-Feb. '06, p.34
Public support-Dec. '03, p.10
Rabies-May '02, p.16
Serves people-May '05, p.34
Sharing resources-Oct. '05, p.26
Shelter-Nov. '04, p.16; software-April '05, p.26; inside v. outside-May '06, p.24

Shelters-April '03, p.10
Speaking Spanish-Dec. '04, p.22
'Sweeper' law-Oct. '04, p.26
Tethering, inhumane-Sept. '06, p.22
Weather, hot- Aug. '02, p.16; June '03, p.18; fall-Oct. '06, p.18
West Nile virus, danger to animals-Sept. '02, p.20
Wildlife woes-Sept. '05, p.38
Wolf hybrid-July '03, p.32

Applications and Forms

ACCRTA, scholarship-Jan. '02, p.21; Jan. '04, p.27; March '06, p.34
Court Clerk of Year form- Feb. '02, p.32; March '03, p.24; March '04, p.33
Innovations in American Government-July '04, p.41
Legislative Bulletin-Jan. '05, p.18
Mayor, alderman of year-Jan. '05, p.17; Jan. '06, p.23
Municipal Clerk of Year form- Feb. '02, p.33; March '03, p.25; March '04, p.32; May '05, p.23; March '06, p.36
NLC, Awards for Municipal Excellence-March '06, p.18

Arkansas City Attorneys' Association (ACAA)

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)-May '03, p.15; offered-Dec. '04, p.15; May '06, p.21; Dec. '06, p.20
Education credits-Nov. '02, p.9

Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) (see City Clerks)

Arkansas Community of Excellence (ACE)

Clarksville-Nov. '06, p.20
Des Arc-Nov. '03, p.12
Dumas-Sept. '04, p.33
El Dorado-Oct. '04, p.14
England-Nov. '06, p.20
Eureka Springs-Nov. '06, p.20
Fordyce-Nov. '03, p.12
Gravette-Oct. '04, p.6
Harrisburg-Nov. '06, p.20
Harrison-Nov. '03, p.12
Hazen-Nov. '03, p.12
Lake Village-Nov. '03, p.12
Magnolia-Jan. '05, p.20
Marianna-Nov. '03, p.12
McCrory-Nov. '06, p.20
Paragould-Sept. '04, p.33
Prescott-Sept. '04, p.33
Searcy-Oct. '04, p.20
Smackover-Nov. '06, p.20

Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC)

Classes announced-Feb. '04, p.27
Seminars- Feb. '04, p.27

Arts

Arkansas Arts Council-Oct. '05, p.8
Public Art-Oct. '05, p.8
a'TEST Consultants, Inc.
(also see DOT, Drugs)
Alcohol, abuse-June '04, p.40; abuse in workplace-March '02, p.18; April '03, p.27; Feb. '06, p.30; Alcohol Awareness Month-April '06, p.35
Altered specimens-Nov. '02, p.22
Background checks-Feb. '03, p.23
Behavior, seasonal-Nov. '06, p.34
Blind specimens-June '03, p.37
Blood pressure guidelines-April '04, p.37
Breath-test devices-April '05, p.32
Cannabis, male fertility-Nov. '03, p.29

Catheterization-Aug. '05, p.40
CDL regulations-Sept. '02, p.30
Change of Pace seminar-Jan. '05, p.44;
Feb. '05, p.40
Chemically dependent traits-May '02, p.23
Cigarettes, teens-Oct. '02, p.24; Feb. '03, p.22
Client quiz-April '04, p.37
Cocaine-May '05, p.40
College drinking-May '02, p.22
Concentra-Oct. '03, p.26
Consortium obligations-Dec. '04, p.28
Conway satellite office-Jan. '04, p.19;
opening-March '04, p.29; update-Sept. '04, p.40
Cough medicine, abuse-Aug. '06, p.30
Cutting overhead costs-Jan. '05, p.44
Designated employer rep training-May '05, p.40
Discrimination suit-Oct. '04, p.36
Doctored test-April '05, p.32
DOT, driver education requirement-Sept. '04, p.40; mgt. info.-June '04, p.40; records-Dec. '04, p.29
DOT, drug/alcohol policy-Feb. '05, p.40
Drug abuse signs-Sept. '03, p.28
Drug-free workplaces-June '02, p.28; May '04, p.23
Drug market-May '04, p.22
Drug testing policy FAQs-June '02, p.29
Drug testing rules-July '04, p.44
Drug testing-Feb. '04, p.28; Hair-Jan. '04, p.18; Alternatives-Nov. '05, p.45; defraud-Jan. '06, p.43; League testing program-June '06, p.34; Boston officers fail-Sept. '06, p.30
Drug use decline-Aug. '02, p.26; Aug. '03, p.24
Drug wipes-March '04, p.28
Drunken driving deaths-Jan. '04, p.19
Ecstasy-April '03, p.27; June '05, p.41
Ephedra-March '02, p.19
Firefighters reinstated-Oct. '05, p.33
Flu, prevention-Dec. '05, p.37; symptoms, treatment-Dec. '06, p.34
Health disorders, high blood pressure-March '03, p.21
Hemp industry-March '05, p.41
Herbal remedies-March '02, p.19
HIPAA-Sept. '03, p.28; June '03, p.36; discrepancies-March '03, p.21
Holiday emotions-Dec. '02, p.20; Dec. '03, p.32
Holiday schedule-Nov. '02, p.23; Nov. '04, p.32
Inhalants- April '02, p.30; Sept. '05, p.44; March '06, p.36
Interpreting Test Results-May '04, p.22
Iowa, employee compensation-June '03, p.36
LabOne-Feb. '04, p.28
Limbaugh, Rush-Dec. '03, p.33
LSD, PCP-June '05, p.41
Marijuana for medicine-Aug. '04, p.28; Oct. '04, p.36; Oct. '05, p.34
Marijuana, risks-Nov. '02, p.23; April '03, p.26; still most used-Nov. '04, p.32; March '05, p.40; Perception-July '05, p.44
Methamphetamine-April '03, p.26; Sept. '03, p.28
Mileage allowances-March '05, p.40
Monitor hospital testing-Oct. '03, p.26
Nasal flu vaccine-Aug. '03, p.24
Nat'l Drug Office statement-March '02, p.19
National Youth Anti-Drug campaign-April '04, p.37
Northwest Lab, contract-March '04, p.29
On-site drug testing-Aug. '04, p.28
OxyContin-Feb. '04, p.28
Parents charged, son's addiction-Oct. '02, p.25
PHMSA-April '05, p.33
Plastic Bottles as Danger-April '02, p.31
Prescription medicine, abuse-Dec. '03, p.32; July '06, p.44; Internet-Oct. '06, p.26
Prosthesis-Nov. '03, p.29
Quest diagnostics '03, index-Sept. '04, p.41
Quiz answers-May '04, p.23
Random drug testing-April '04, p.36; Sept.

'04, p.40; June '05, p.41; Sept. '05, p.44
Random management update-Feb. '04, p.28
Random testing-Jan. '02, p.22; Feb. '02, p.26; Aug. '03, p.24
Recovering employee-Oct. '03, p.26
Recovery after terrorism-April '02, p.31
Smoking, teens-Oct. '02, p.24; workplace-May '06, p.32
Specimen collection-Feb. '03, p.23
Substance Abuse as Health Problem-April '02, p.30
Suicide hotline-Aug. '05, p.40
Terrorist-July '02, p.30
Testing benefits-Dec. '02, p.20; June '04, p.40
Testing companies-Sept. '03, p.29
Testing- May '02, p.22; Aug. '03, p.24; March '05, p.40
Unemployment issues-Sept. '02, p.31
Urine testing-Nov. '02, p.22; sales-Feb. '03, p.22
Validity guidelines-May '03, p.32; Dec. '04, p.28
Web services-Aug. '05, p.40
Youth campaign, terror, drugs-March '02, p.18

Attorneys

International Municipal Lawyers Assoc., BMI-Jan. '03, p.13

Awards

71st League Convention-July '05, p.20
ACE: Dumas, Paragould, Prescott-Sept. '04, p.33; Gravette-Oct. '04, p.6; El Dorado-Oct. '04, p.14; Searcy-Oct. '04, p.20; Clarksville, England, Eureka Springs, Harrisburg, McCrory, Smackover-Nov. '06, p.20
Adrian White winners-Aug. '04, p.10
Best Performing Cities Index-March '06, p.18
Camden Housing Authority-Jan. '03, p.23
Dailey, energy-July '03, p.29
Dean's Chair, Edward Brown-Jan. '03, p.7
Delta Byways, Delta Awards-Nov. '04, p.26; Nov. '06, p.10
Entrepreneur cities-May '03, p.8
Firewise-Feb. '04, p.19
Four Star Municipality-July '03, p.22
Great American Main Street-Sept. '04, p.18
Harvard's innovation award-July '04, p.41
Howland nominations-May '02, p.17; April '04, p.25; Feb. '05, p.28
Innovations Award, apply-Aug. '05, p.21
Main Street, Rogers-Sept. '04, p.8
Mayor, alderman of year-Jan. '05, p.17; Jan. '06, p.23
Outstanding CPA in Gov., Robert Sisson-May '03, p.9
Pearce, Frank honored-Dec. '06, p.20
Person(s) of Year-Jul. '05, p.20
Purcell, Joe-July '06, p.30
Rhodes winners-Aug. '04, p.19
Rural Advocate of Year, JoAnne Bush-July '05, p.26
Shelby, Beatrice Clark-April '05, p.18
Teamwork Ark. honors cities-March '05, p.31
Volunteer Communities of the Year, named-Nov. '01, p.20; Nov. '02, p.17; Nov. '03, p.14; Dec. '03, p.20; Dec. '04, p.12; Jan. '06, p.10; Dec. '06, p.8
Volunteer Community of the Year, nomination deadline-Aug. '02, p.19; Jan. '05, p.29; Aug. '05, p.20; Sept. '06, p.16

Books

Government Assistance Almanac-May '02, p.19
Review: Cities in the Wilderness-Feb. '06, p.28
Review: Collapse-Oct. '05, p.12
Review: Get Urban-Aug. '05, p.16
Review: Police Management-Dec. '03, p.9
Review: The GIS Guide for Local Govt. Officials-Nov. '05, p.31
Review: The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth-Dec. '05, p.24
Review: The Power of Ideas-Sept. '05, p.17
Review: Urban Sprawl and Public Health-Feb. '05, p.33

Smarter Architecture-April '06, p.15

Census

Conference-Oct. '03, p.27
Historical data-May '04, p.14
Latino population-May '05, p.6
Revised population counts-Aug. '03, p.10

Centennial Incorporation

Celebrations-Feb. '02, p.20; March '03, p.14; Feb. '04, p.6; Feb. '05, p.12; March '06, p.6; July '06, p.24

Cities

Adona-Dec. '05, p.14; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Altus, VCOY-Dec. '03, p.21
Arkadelphia, Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.7
Athens-Dec. '06, p.20
Avoca-Oct. '02, p.19
Beaver-Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Beebe-June '02, p.7; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10
Belfast-Dec. '06, p.20
Bella Vista, incorporates-Dec. '06, p.16
Belleville, grant-Sept. '06, p.16
Benton, Joe Purcell honored-July '06, p.30
Bentonville-Feb. '02, p.17; Heritage Trail-Dec. '05, p.7; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; new arena-June '06, p.20
Berlin-Dec. '06, p.20
Berryville-Sept. '02, p.23
Biggers, centennial-March '03, p.14
Bismarck-Dec. '06, p.20
Blytheville, Atlas tube plant-Nov. '05, p.18; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Bryant-Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Bull Shoals-Nov. '02, p.20; Dec. '03, p.21; Dec. '04, p.12
Burdette-Feb. '05, p.13
Cabot -Sept. '05, p.11; Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.43
Calico Rock-Feb. '05, p.13
Camden-Sept. '02, p.11; Hurricane Katrina relief, Sept. '05, p.7; Oct. '05, p.8; river-front park-June '06, p.10
Carlisle, FireWise-Sept. '05, p.11
Carthage-Dec. '06, p.20
Cherokee Village, turns 50-Sept. '05, p.10; FireWise-Sept. '05, p.11; Dec. '05, p.14; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.9
Chidester, centennial-March '06, p.6
Clarkridge, Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Dec. '06, p.9
Clarksville-Aug. '02, p.21; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; ACE-Nov. '06, p.20
Clinton, dining room-Oct. '04, p.22
Congo-Dec. '06, p.20
Conway-May '05, p.11; new theater planned-March '06, p.20; civil service commission-March '06, p.20
Cotter-Oct. '04, p.12
Crossett, centennial-March '03, p.14
Cushman, centennial-July '06, p.24
Danville-Dec. '05, p.14
Datto-Feb. '05, p.13
Dell-Feb. '05, p.14; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Denver-Dec. '06, p.20
Denver-Oct. '05, p.7
Dover-Dec. '06, p.20
Dublin-Dec. '06, p.20
Dumas, ACE-Sept. '04, p.33; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.13; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Earle-Feb. '05, p.14
Egypt-Dec. '06, p.20
El Dorado-Feb. '02, p.24; Nov. '02, p.19; ACE-Oct. '04, p.14; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Emerson-Feb. '05, p.15; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.10
England-ACE-Nov. '06, p.20; Dec. '06, p.20
Etowah-Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Eureka Springs-Feb. '02, p.17; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.13; KABF-May '05, p.13; Sept. '05, p.11; Dec. '05, p.14; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; ACE-Nov. '06, p.20; name unique-Dec. '06, p.20

Everton, community center-Oct. '04, p.22
Fairfield Bay-KABF-May '05, p.13
Fayetteville wins award-April '02, p.28; trees-June '03, p.20; KABF-May '05, p.14; OKs sewer plant-Nov. '05, p.18; Heritage Trail-Dec. '05, p.6; Dec. '05, p.14; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; City Plan 2025-Nov. '06, p.18
Fordyce, Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.8; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Formosa-Dec. '06, p.20
Forrest City, Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.43
Fort Smith-Oct. '01, p.22; Feb. '02, p.17; Nov. '02, p.19; Sept. '02, p.13; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.21; Fitness-Aug. '05, p.37; Oct. '05, p.28; Heritage Trail-Dec. '05, p.6; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Oak Cemetery-June '06, p.7; water supply expansion-Dec. '06, p.6; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.10
Fourche, centennial-March '06, p.6
Gassville, centennial-March '03, p.14
Genoa-Dec. '06, p.20
Gentry-Oct. '02, p.19
Gilbert, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.10
Gillett, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.21; centennial-March '06, p.6
Gillham-Feb. '02, p.20
Glenwood-Oct. '02, p.21
Goshen, city clerk profile-Dec. '06, p.21
Gravette, overpass-Oct. '04, p.6
Greenbrier, new community center-Aug. '05, p.21
Greenland-Dec. '06, p.20
Griffithville-Feb. '05, p.15
Gurdon, Rose Hedge Cemetery-June '06, p.8
Hamburg-March '02, p.7; Dec. '06, p.20
Harrisburg, ACE-Nov. '06, p.20
Harrison-Oct. '05, p.28
Hartman-Dec. '05, p.14
Havana-Dec. '06, p.20
Hazen-June '02, p.7
Heber Springs-Dec. '03, p.22; Dec. '04, p.21; Dec. '05, p.28; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Dec. '06, p.10
Helena-Feb. '02, p.17
Helena-West Helena, name change-March '05, p.33; first council-Feb. '06, p.17; sales tax rejected-April '06, p.22; Magnolia Cemetery-June '06, p.7; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Higginson, centennial-March '06, p.6
Holland-June '03, p.6; Dec. '06, p.20
Hollis-Dec. '05, p.14
Hot Springs, convention center-Feb. '02, p.12; March '02, p.11; Dec. '02, p.3; parking-April '03, p.24; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.21; public art-Oct. '05, p.7; animal control-Oct. '05, p.26; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; call center-July '06, p.30; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.11
Houston-Feb. '02, p.20; Dec. '05, p.14
Humphrey-Feb. '05, p.16
Jacksonville, new fountain-Aug. '05, p.20
Jonesboro, cat control-Dec. '05, p.30
Jordan-Dec. '06, p.20
Junction City-Sept. '05, p.43
Keiser-Nov. '02, p.17; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Keo, veteran's park-June '04, p.10
Lake Village, baseball tournament-Aug. '02, p.38; Hurricane Ivan-Oct. '04, p.14; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Lepanto-Oct. '02, p.18
Leslie, centennial-March '06, p.6
Lisbon-Dec. '06, p.20
Little Rock-Feb. '02, p.17; May '02, p.27; Sept. '02, p.21; Jan. '03, p.41; energy-Dec. '03, p.14; City Year-Oct. '04, p.14; ISO-Nov. '04, p.18; downtown praised-April '06, p.22; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; Mount Holly Cemetery-June '06, p.9; NLC inclusive community-June '06, p.23; Dailey won't seek re-election-July '06, p.28; Pulaski Co. Pedestrian and

Bicycle Bridge, opens-Oct. '06, p.6; nickname announced-Oct. '06, p.15
London, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.11; Dec. '06, p.20
Lonoke weatherization-Nov. '05, p.14-15
Lonsdale-Sept. '05, p.11
Lowell-Feb. '05, p.16
Magness, centennial-March '06, p.6
Manilla-Dec. '06, p.20
Marianna, housing, etc.-Nov. '03, p.6; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29
Marked Tree-Feb. '02, p.7; new jobs-Nov. '04, p.18
Marmaduke, tornado-May '06, p.7
Marvell, Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Maumelle-Nov. '02, p.17; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.22; Dec. '04, p.21; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Dec. '06, p.11
McCrary, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.21; KABF-May '05, p.14; KAB Community of the Year-May '06, p.11; ACE-Nov. '06, p.20
McGehee, centennial-March '06, p.6; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29
Melbourne-Dec. '06, p.20
Mena-April '05, p.17; Airport, hospital projects-Oct. '05, p.9
Monticello, historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29
Morrilton-Aug. '02, p.15; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29; Mayor Stewart Nelson, profile-Aug. '06, p.6
Moscow-Dec. '06, p.20
Mount Vernon, new library-Sept. '05, p.26; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Mountain Home-Oct. '02, p.3, p.19; Nov. '02, p.18; Dec. '03, p.22; Dec. '04, p.21; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Dec. '06, p.11
Mountain View, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.22; Dec. '04, p.21; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.11
Mulberry-June '02, p.6
Nashville, Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina-Sept. '05, p.7
Norfolk-Nov. '02, p.19
Norman-May '02, p.6; Dec. '05, p.14
Norphet-Dec. '05, p.14
North Little Rock-Sept. '02, p.19; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.23; Patrick Hays Senior Center-March '03, p.23; USS Razorback-June '04, p.21; Sept. '04, p.9; River Rail-Sept. '04, p.21; ballpark-Nov. '04, p.19; Skatepark-Nov. '05, p.8; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29; Main Street Arkansas, Argenta grant-July '06, p.29; Pulaski Co. Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, opens-Oct. '06, p.6
Oden-Dec. '05, p.14
Okolona-Feb. '02, p.21
Ola, grant-Sept. '06, p.16
Osceola-Sept. '05, p.43; alderman seeks House seat-Jan. '06, p.12; Musicfest-June '06, p.23; new energy station-July '06, p.28
Ozark-Dec. '05, p.14; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Paragould, ACE-Sept. '04, p.33; Community development plan-Sept. '05, p.15, 45; Skatepark-Nov. '05, p.7; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29; name unique-Dec. '06, p.20
Paris-Dec. '06, p.20
Parkdale-Feb. '02, p.21
Parkin-March '05, p.15
Patterson-May '05, p.18
Perry-Dec. '05, p.14
Piggott-Sept. '02, p.3, p.22
Pine Bluff-Feb. '02, p.17; EDA-Nov. '04, p.18; Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.8; public art-Oct. '05, p.7
Plainview-Dec. '05, p.14
Plumerville-April '05, p.12
Pocahontas, vintage car race-May '04, p.10; skatepark-Nov. '05, p.6; celebrates

150 years-Oct. '06, p.33
Pottsville, historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29
Prescott, ACE-Sept. '04, p.33
Rogers, Main Street award-Sept. '04, p.8; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Russellville-Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Salt Lake City-Feb. '03, p.13
Scotland-Dec. '06, p.20
Searcy, ACE-Oct. '04, p.20; Architect picked for fire station-May '05, p.33; Wireless Internet-June '05, p.31; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Sherwood-May '02, p.7; Nov. '02, p.20; cyber-savvy seniors-Aug. '02, p.24
Smackover, Recorder/Treas.-Aug. '02, p.17; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '03, p.23; clerks' meeting-June '04, p.8; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; ACE-Nov. '06, p.20
Sonora-Dec. '06, p.20
Springdale-Sept. '04, p.21; Sept. '05, p.43; Heritage Trail-Dec. '05, p.6; pop. exceeds 50,000-April '06, p.22
St. Charles-Aug. '03, p.20; Oct. '03, p.11; Nov. '03, p.17
Star City, growth-Aug. '04, p.6
Stuttgart, Sept. '02, p.13; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.1; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29
Sweden-Dec. '06, p.20
Texarkana-Feb. '02, p.17; historic preservation grant-July '06, p.29; Main Street Arkansas grant-July '06, p.29
Thornburg-Dec. '05, p.14
Thornton, Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.7; new city hall-Feb. '06, p.16
Trumann, skatepark-Nov. '05, p.6; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Tuckerman, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.21
Tyronza, Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10
Van Buren-Nov. '02, p.20; Dec. '03, p.23; Vision 2010-March '04, p.6; Volunteer Community of the Year-Jan. '06, p.10; Tree City USA-May '06, p.30; Fairview Cemetery-June '06, p.7; Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '06, p.17
Victoria-Dec. '06, p.20
Warren, Volunteer Community of the Year-Dec. '04, p.25
Waterloo-Dec. '06, p.20
West Memphis, distribution centers-Nov. '04, p.18
Western Grove, fire truck-Oct. '04, p.25
Wilton-Feb. '02, p.21
Winslow-Feb. '05, p.16
Wooster, Tree City USA-May '06, p.30
Wrightsville-Nov. '02, p.17; trail-Nov. '06, p.33
Yellville-Nov. '02, p.18

City Clerks

ACCRTA, officers elected-July '06, p.5
Cabe, Wilma-July '06, p.30
Cheevers, Keith, Frolow-July '03, p.35
Curtis, Barbie J.-June '05, p.22
District II meeting-June '04, p.8; Sept. '05, p.23
Fearman, Sandra-Feb. '04, p.16
Ferguson, Fara, profile-Dec. '06, p.21
Gard, Sherri E.-April '05, p.25
Gentry/NLR clerks-July '04, p.41
Goodwin, Charlotte F.-April '05, p.25; Sept. '06, p.16
Greenhill, Mitri-Dec. '06, p.21
Greenwood, Cindy-Jan. '03, p.21
Grider, Suzanne-Oct. '06, p.15
Henrite, Linda M.-May '05, p.33
Hillman, Virginia-Sept. '03, p.13
Honor roll-April '06, p.24
IIMC, honors clerks-Jan. '02, p.16; March '02, p.13; April '02, p.28; Sept. '02, p.29-Oct. '02, p.18; July '03, p.34; Sept. '05, p.23; regional meet announced-Oct. '06, p.15
Jackson, Donna-Sept. '05, p.23

Kindle, Charlotte-Sept. '04, p.13
 Maynard, Susan E.-April '05, p.25; Sept. '05, p.11
Municipal Clerks Week-April '06, p.24
 Pensions-Jan. '03, p.14; Dec. '03, p.12
 Roberts, Gina-April '05, p.25
 Tax administrators-June '03, p.41
 Verkler, Marva M.-March '03, p.19
 Walker, Regina-Jul. '05, p.20; Oct. '05, p.9
 Whitbey, Diane-Sept. '05, p.23
 Willett, Carolyn-July '06, p.30
City Councils
 Disputes-Oct. '02, p.21
 Diversity-Sept. '03, p.18
 First-of-year questions reviewed-Jan. '03, p.10
 Procedures-Aug. '03, p.8
City Officials
 Bonded-March '03, p.8
 Mitchell honored-Nov. '02, p.13
 Term length-Nov. '03, p.18
 Treasurer duties-March '03, p.8
Civil Rights
 Little Rock Nine, monument-Sept. '05, p.12
Civil Service
 Commission Authority-Jan. '03, p.15
 Conway, reinstated-March '06, p.20
 Employee seeking political office-Nov. '03, p.18
Code Enforcement
 Building contractor license proof-Nov. '03, p.9
 IAS to accredit bldg. dept.-March '05, p.31
Communications
 Prison spokeswoman, dealing with media-May '04, p.8
 Telecommunications Act of 1996, revision of-April '06, p.24
Delta
 Delta Byways-Nov. '04, p.26; Rural Heritage Development Initiative-Sept. '06, p.13;
 Delta Awards-Nov. '06, p.10
 Delta Caucus-June '05, p.6; Feb. '06, p.13; Sept. '06, p.11
 Delta Cultural Center-Feb. '02, p.9
 Delta Regional Authority (DRA)-April '03, p.33; May '03, p.21; grant info.-Feb. '04, p.15; healthful programs-March '04, p.25;
 hires director-Oct. '04, p.14; funding, meeting-Nov. '04, p.22; Budget cuts-Nov. '05, p.21; funding-Oct. '06, p.14
 Future of the South Conf.-Dec. '06, p.18
 Highways, grant received-April '06, p.21
 Miss. Delta Grassroots Caucus-March '05, p.31; Sept. '05, p.22; April '06, p.25
 Miss. River Trail-Nov. '06, p.22
 Southern Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Forum-Nov. '04, p.22
Disaster
 Earthquake-March '05, p.9; March '05, p.11
 FEMA-Sept. '05, p.8-9, 43
 Hurricane Katrina-Sept. '05, p.6
 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-Sept. '05, p.24
 Plan, procedures-June '03, p.12
 Tornadoes-April '05, p.8; April '05, p.9
Diversity and Race Relations
 Equality Week-July '02, p.19; Sept. '03, p.11
 Latino population-May '05, p.6
 Little Rock Nine, monument unveiling-Sept. '05, p.12
 Racial profiling-Sept. '03, p.22; Dec. '03, p.8
DOT (also see a*TEST Consultants Inc.)
 Drug and alcohol testing rates-Feb. '02, p.27
 Hospital gowns, testing-Aug. '05, p.40
 Part 40-March '03, p.20
Domestic Mitigation Act
 Changes to-Feb. '04, p.17
Drugs
 (also see a*TEST Consultants, Inc.)
 Detox products-Jan. '03, p.28
 Medical marijuana-March '03, p.21; Oct. '05, p.34
 Meth workshop-Jan. '03, p.25
 Underage drinking-June '05, p.16
Earthquakes

Preparation-March '05, p.9
 Structures-March '05, p.11
Economic and Community Development
 Arkansas Arts Council-Oct. '05, p.8
 Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security-Aug. '06, p.16
 Clinton dining room-Oct. '04, p.22
 Community action agencies, 40th Anniv.-April '04, p.27
 Cotter historic bridge-Oct. '04, p.12
 Electronic sealed bidding-Sept. '05, p.13; Sample ordinance-Oct. '05, p.30
 Everton community center-Oct. '04, p.22
 Federal Reserve Bank speaker series-Oct. '04, p.14
 Future of the South Con.-Dec. '06, p.18
 Gravette overpass-Oct. '04, p.6
 Housing and Urban Development-Feb. '05, p.22
 Intl. Transportation and Econ. Development Conf.-April '06, p.26
 Lake Maumelle watershed-March '05, p.14
 Latino population-May '05, p.6
 North Little Rock, River Rail-Sept. '04, p.21
 Public art-Sept. '02, p.8; Oct. '05, p.6
 Security forum set-July '06, p.30
 Springdale, corner park-Sept. '04, p.21
Elections
 Ballot issues-Feb. '03, p.11
 Campaign rules for candidates-April '02, p.26
 City administrator form-June '02, p.40
 City Mgr. form-June '02, p.42
 Felons-Jan. '03, p.16
 Filing deadlines-Dec. '03, p.14
 Mayor/Council form-Jan. '02, p.34; June '02, p.36
 Municipal election info-Jan. '06, p.34; when to take oath-Dec. '06, p.19
 Party or not choice-Dec. '03, p.14
 Petition of nomination, municipal candidates, alderman by ward, at large, municipal manager-June '02, p.44
 Political practice pledge-June '02, p.43
 Special-Dec. '03, p.13
 Vote counts-Jan. '03, p.34
Electronic
 eDoc America-March '02, p.26; Dec. '02, p.19
e-Government
 Electronic sealed bidding-Sept. '05, p.13-14
 New League Computer Asst. Prog.-Dec. '02, p.10
 e-mail
 Safe policies-Sept. '04, p.33
Emergency Communications
 911 Conference, AAPSC-Jan. '03, p.25
 911 personal info-April '03, p.10
 911 funds use-Oct. '03, p.28
 Managers Meeting-Jan. '04, p.11
 Tornadoes-April '05, p.9
Emergency Preparedness
 ADEM, new director named-July '06, p.30
 Earthquake-March '05, p.9
 FEMA-Sept. '05, p.8; Witt, James Lee speaks-Sept. '06, p.9
 Flood, damage-April '06, p.32; Levees-Nov. '06, p.8
 Hurricane Ivan-Oct. '04, p.14
 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-Sept. '05, p.24
 National Incident Management System (NIMS)-Sept. '05, p.9, 43; FAQ-April '06, p.23
 Prison spokeswoman, dealing with media-May '04, p.8
 Pulaski County WMD drill-Feb. '04, p.14
 Survival driving-Dec. '05, p.20-21
 Tornadoes-April '05, p.8; Marmaduke-May '06, p.7
 Training scheduled-Oct. '02, p.23; May '04, p.14; July '06, p.28
 Urban forest, protection-Aug. '06, p.28
Employees
 AML-Jan. '03, p.30
 Benefit enhancement-April '05, p.25
 EITC-Jan. '03, p.27; March '05, p.23; March '06, p.18

Legally, safely encourage language skills-July '05, p.25
Energy
 Dailey award-July '03, p.29
 Efficiencies-Dec. '03, p.15
 Osceola, new energy station-July '06, p.28
 State code-Sept. '04, p.39; inspection aid available-Oct. '06, p.8
Engineering
 Am. Society of Civil Engineers report card-March '05, p.20
 Bicycle, use and accommodation-Dec. '06, p.30
 Bonds-June '02, p.12; Feb. '04, p.16
 Building codes-Dec. '02, p.24
 City cleaning-April '04, p.20
 City engineers-July '02, p.22
 City halls-Sept. '05, p.32
 Coating, protective-Aug. '06, p.26
 Concrete-Nov. '02, p.14; July '05, p.32
 Consultant hiring-Sept. '04, p.24
 Consultation-April '03, p.14
 Contract bids-March '06, p.30
 Donated buildings-May '05, p.28
 Drainage-May '02, p.29; Feb. '06, p.24
 Driving safely-Dec. '05, p.20
 Flood, damage-April '06, p.32; flood plain, admin.-June '06, p.30
 Hot weather-Aug. '02, p.14; June '04, p.18
 Infrastructures-Oct. '02, p.16
 Infrastructure inventory-Nov. '04, p.16
 Inspectors, v. observers-Feb. '02, p.16
 Interstate repairs-Sept. '02, p.18
 Mold-Jan. '03, p.20
 Parks and recreation management-Dec. '04, p.16; playgrounds-May '04, p.20
 Planning-Jan. '02, p.26
 Pollution regulations-April '05, p.20
 Potholes-March '05, p.28
 Public building codes-Jan. '04, p.20
 Privatization, benefits-Oct. '06, p.22
 Pulaski Co. Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, opens-Oct. '06, p.6
 Purchasing equipment-Aug. '05, p.28
 Scheduling-Oct. '05, p.20
 Sealing cracks-March '02, p.8
 Soils-Aug. '03, p.18
 Sparking youth interest-Aug. '04, p.16
 Spill prevention-June '03, p.16
 Spring cleaning-March '03, p.18
 Storm water, rules-Dec. '03, p.16; permit changes-July '06, p.28; management-Sept. '06, p.26
 Streets, maintenance-July '03, p.30; Jan. '05, p.24; Nov. '05, p.32; July '06, p.40; design-Nov. '06, p.30
 SUVs-Sept. '03, p.20
 Tornado damage-March '04, p.18
 Traffic-Feb. '03, p.14; control-Nov. '03, p.24; safety-May '06, p.28
 Transportation, economy-Oct. '04, p.20; planning-Jan. '06, p.24
 Trucking Ark.-April '05, p.27
 Types-June '05, p.28
 Winter maintenance-Oct. '03, p.16; freeze/thaw-Feb. '05, p.28
 Work zone safety-May '03, p.28; July '04, p.32
Environment
 ADEQ, stormwater permit changes-July '06, p.28
 Brownfields-April '03, p.23; Sept. '03, p.25; Feb. '05, p.22; Heifer Intl.-May '06, p.21
 Burning, leaf-Nov. '05, p.16; trash-March '06, p.23
 Cigarette litter prevention-Oct. '05, p.10; Nov. '05, p.19
 Conway, sustainable development-May '05, p.11
 Conway County, KABF-May '05, p.14
 Energy efficiencies-Dec. '03, p.15; Jan. '05, p.21
 Green building-Jan. '05, p.21; April '06, p.16
 Heifer Intl., new HQ-April '06, p.13; brown-field cleanup certificate-May '06, p.21
 Lake Maumelle watershed-March '05, p.14
 Recycling, electronics-Sept. '06, p.16
 Trees, pollution/erosion ctrl.-April '06, p.34

Wastewater treatment online-April '03, p.25; water/wastewater info available-April '06, p.22
 Winrock Intl., green architecture-Sept. '03, p.33
Ethics
 Church, membership-Feb. '03, p.19
 Conflict of interest-Jan. '03, p.16
 Executive session, agenda for '05-Jan. '05, p.16
 Finance, report for '04-Sept. '04, p.6
 Meetings-Dec. '05, p.26
Fair Housing Commission
 Workshop announcement-Jan. '04, p.10
 Grand Prairie Rice Festival-Nov. '05, p.23
 Riverfest, moves north-Feb. '02, p.14; May '03, p.35
 WorldFest-Oct. '05, p.25
FEMA
 Flood insurance-Sept. '05, p.24-25
 Flood plain map modernization-Oct. '05, p.19, 27
 Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.8, 43
 Levees, studied-Nov. '06, p.8
 National Incident Management System (NIMS)-Sept. '05, p.9, 43
 Witt, James Lee speaks-Sept. '06, p.9
Finances
 Budget changes-Aug. '03, p.8
 Budget ordinance-Nov. '03, p.8
 Buy, sell property-Oct. '03, p.28
 Court fines-Feb. '03, p.10
 Direct deposit-Dec. '03, p.13
 Electronic sealed bidding-Sept. '05, p.13-14; Sample ordinance-Oct. '05, p.30
 Ethics Comm. decides who files financial statement-May '05, p.22
 Federal budget-'06-March '05, p.35; '07-March '06, p.20
 Finance officers meet-July '03, p.33
 Financing city purchases-March '02, p.10
 Grant service-Oct. '03, p.25
 Investing-Feb. '03, p.10
 Jail fees-Feb. '03, p.19; Dec. '03, p.13
 Lien authority-Oct. '03, p.29
 New accounting standards-March '03, p.28
 Officers Meet-June '04, p.8
 Semiannual reports-Jan. '02, p.24; July '02, p.32; Jan. '03, p.42; July '03, p.38; Oct. '03, p.27; Jan. '04, p.25; July '04, p.42; Jan. '05, p.25; July '05, p.42; Jan. '06, p.30; July '06, p.46
 State aid-Feb. '06, p.11
 Street fund separate-June '03, p.6
 Taxes for club beer, wine-Nov. '03, p.19
Fire Fighting
 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code-Oct. '03, p.13; revisited-Sept. '05, p.36
 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program-April '06, p.21
 FFD, FEMA grant-Aug. '05, p.15
 Fighting for non-residents-April '04, p.12
 Fire prevention week-Aug. '02, p.11; Sept. '05, p.14
 Goshen clerk also firefighter-Dec. '06, p.21
 Heart problems, firefighters-June '05, p.23
 ISO, rating schedule-June '04, p.10; Little Rock-Nov. '04, p.18
 Leadership Awards-Nov. '06, p.16
 Open burning regulation-Nov. '05, p.16
 Parkin pumper-March '05, p.15
 Searcy, new station-April '06, p.24
 Western Grove-Oct. '04, p.25
FireWise (also see Urban Forestry)
 Ark. leads in FireWise-Dec. '04, p.18; Dec. '05, p.13
 Communities, named-Feb. '04, p.19; Sept. '05, p.11
 How to become-Feb. '03, p.18;
 Program seeks presentation proposals-Nov. '05, p.18
Floodplain Regulations
 Administration-June '06, p.30
 Complaints-March '03, p.10
 Enforcement-Oct. '05, p.24
 Levees, studied-Nov. '06, p.8
 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-Sept. '05, p.24-25
 Map modernization-Oct. '05, p.19, 27
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Discussions-Feb. '05, p.18
 Secrecy-March '03, p.10
 State only section-Feb. '03, p.19
 Termination records-Feb. '03, p.11
 Violation, Fort Smith-Nov. '04, p.18

Geographic Information Systems
 Book review-Nov. '05, p.31
 Mapping state's roads-April '03, p.22
 Sex offender notification-Sept. '02, p.10

Governor
 Appoints C. Gallagher-Jan. '03, p.41
 Huckabee rated among best-Nov. '05, p.20

Grants
 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program-April '06, p.21
 Bulletproof vests-Feb. '02, p.23
 CDBG-March '06, p.31; April '06, p.6
 COPS-April '03, p.23
 Delta, highways-April '06, p.21
 Dept. of Labor-April '06, p.21
 Drug law enforcement-April '04, p.14
 FHLBank of Dallas-Feb. '05, p.22
 FIRE-March '02, p.17
 Grants book-Oct. '03, p.25
 Greyhound Bus-Feb. '02, p.23
 Health grants-June '05, p.36
 Historic Preservation Program, grants awarded-July '06, p.29; Preserve America grant-Oct. '06, p.32
 Homeland security software-April '02, p.19
 Homeland security-Sept. '03, p.17
 Justice Department-March '05, p.22
 Office of Community Services-June '06, p.20
 Urban forestry-Aug. '03, p.27
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Sept. '06, p.16

Health
 Aging-Jan. '03, p.18
 Allergies-Nov. '02, p.15; relief-Sept. '06, p.32
 Automated external defibrillator-Dec. '06, p.36
 Cancer, other disease fighting-Oct. '03, p.22
 Childhood obesity-March '05, p.36; June '05, p.33
 Clean Indoor Air Act-June '06, p.38
 Community design-Dec. '04, p.24
 COPD-Feb. '05, p.37
 CPR-April '03, p.28
 Diabetes prevention-Dec. '02, p.22
 Dining out-April '05, p.28
 Economic health-July '04, p.40
 Emergency preparedness-Feb. '05, p.36
 Exercise-March '06, p.42
 Fit in Fort Smith-Aug. '05, p.37
 Flouridated drinking water-Sept. '05, p.40
 Flu (See influenza)
 Fresh air-Jan. '05, p.32
 Gov. Huckabee weight loss-Jan. '04, p.15
 Health grants-June '05, p.37
 Health workers, shortage-Oct. '06, p.28
 Healthy snacks profitable-Jan. '04, p.14
 Hearing loss-March '04, p.26
 Heart disease, men, women-March '02, p.24
 Holiday eating-Dec. '02, p.22
 Household dangers-May '05, p.36
 Hurricane Katrina response-Oct. '05, p.28
 Influenza-Nov. '05, p.40; prevention-Dec. '05, p.37; pandemic, May '06, p.36; vaccination-Nov. '06, p.36; symptoms, treatment-Dec. '06, p.34
 Memory-Feb. '03, p.12
 Meth labs-Sept. '03, p.28
 Mammograms-Aug. '02, p.20
 MHBf enrollment-June '03, p.15; endorses smoking cessation prog.-Sept. '06, p.8
 Obesity-Feb. '02, p.28; April '02, p.32; March '04, p.23
 Prostate awareness-Aug. '03, p.28
 Rural care-March '03, p.6
 Physical abilities tests, NLRPD, FFD-Aug. '05, p.15
 Physical education-Sept. '04, p.32
 Preventing strokes-May '04, p.34
 Public Health-June '04, p.36; officials lead by example-Oct. '04, p.28; city ordinances promote health-April '06, p.44; Aug. '06, p.32

Secondhand smoke-Nov. '04, p.8
 SMART Goals-April '04, p.30
 Stress-Variety-March '03, p.20; Aug. '03, p.33; reduction-Dec. '05, p.32
 Tobacco-July '05, p.40; cessation-Jan. '06, p.32
 UAMS College of Public Health-Aug. '05, p.36; celebrates 5 years-July '06, p.50
 UAMS smoke-free-Dec. '03, p.24; Nov. '04, p.34
 Walking-April '04, p.31
 Web health help-Aug. '04, p.24
 Weight loss-Nov. '03, p.28
 West Nile-Sept. '02, p.32; May '03, p.18
 Workplace, health programs-Feb. '04, p.24; risk-Feb. '06, p.36

Highway and Transportation Department
 Hanging banners-May '04, p.27
 Pulaski Co. Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, opens-Oct. '06, p.6

History
 Cemeteries, preservation-June '06, p.7
 Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture-May '06, p.21
 Heritage Trail-Dec. '05, p.6-7, 29
 Louisiana Purchase-April '03, p.15
 Theater preservation-Sept. '03, p.22
 Walks through History-Jan. '02, p.9

Holidays and Celebrations
 Black History Month-March '04, p.10
 Dr. Martin Luther King-Feb. '02, p.6; Feb. '03, p.21; Feb. '04, p.16; March '06, p.20
 Memorial Day-May '05, p.14
 Race Equality Week-July '02, p.19
 State Heritage Month-April '03, p.15

Housing
 Marianna-Nov. '03, p.6
 NLC, survey-Dec. '06, p.40

Human Resources
 Polices, procedures-June '02, p.13
 Seasonal employees-May '02, p.24

Jails
 Expenses discussed, Dec. '05, p.26

Jobs
 Marked Tree, new jobs-Nov. '04, p.18

Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission
 1st Community of Year-Dec. '03, p.17
 Ad campaign-March '05, p.23
 Beautification program-Oct. '02, p.18
 Cigarette butts tossed-Nov. '05, p.19
 Communities of the Year-May '05, p.13; May '06, p.11
 Faulkner County Community of Year-May '04, p.10
 Great American Cleanup, March '06, p.22

Law Enforcement
 After-school activities-Nov. '05, p.9
 LECC seminars-June '04, p.8; Jan. '05, p.19; March '05, p.17; June '05, p.18; Feb. '06, p.15; March '06, p.18; May '06, p.14; June '06, p.20; Aug. '06, p.16; Oct. '06, p.12; Nov. '06, p.16
 Scams, utility-Nov. '06, p.19
 Seatbelt campaign-May '02, p.19
 Seminar-Nov. '04, p.24
 State sues body-armor maker-Sept. '05, p.12
 Training classes-Nov. '02, p.13

Legal
 (Also see Legal Questions Index)
 Amending ordinances after readings-June '02, p.10
 Amendment 80-Oct. '02, p.14
 Burning, regulation-Nov. '05, p.16; March '06, p.23
 City office vacancies and elections-June '02, p.10
 City sales tax and allocations-June '02, p.10
 Clean Indoor Air Act-June '06, p.38; primer-July '06, p.25
 Council members, staggered terms-June '02, p.10
 District courts, changes-Nov. '06, p.6
 Electrical rate case-Oct. '02, p.17
 Finishing substandard subdivision-June '02, p.10
 Illegal exaction-Aug. '02, p.12
 Scams, utility-Nov. '06, p.19

Shielded Outdoor Lighting Act, sample ordinance-July '06, p.27
 State sues body-armor maker-Sept. '05, p.12
 Supreme Court statement, limited jurisdiction-Dec. '02, p.12
 Treasurer's Assistant-June '02, p.10
 Religious discrimination-May '02, p.8
 Waiving readings-June '02, p.10

Legislature
 Adjourns-May '03, p.6
 Bulletin-Jan. '03, insert; May '03, insert
 Election, municipal officials seek-Jan. '06, p.12
 Extraordinary session, 85th Gen. Assembly-April '06, p.5
 Legislative bulletin, how to get-Feb. '05, p.19
 Great legislative session-July '05, p.9
 Special Session-May '03, p.8; school funding, teacher salaries, consolidation-Feb. '04, p.10; acts, 85th Gen. Assembly-April '06, p.48
 Topics, '05 session-July '05, p.37; League prepares, '07 session-Sept. '06, p.6; Nov. '06, p.6
 Turnback, increase requested-Dec. '06, p.29

Loss Control
 Brailsford, Pres-Nov. '04, p.6
 League safety videos-Feb. '05, p.22

Main Street
 20th Anniversary-May '04, p.6
 Conference-Aug. '06, p.16
 Donations, Yarnell-Nov. '06, p.16
 Grants, awarded-July '06, p.29
 Rogers-Sept. '04, p.8
 Rural Heritage Development Initiative-Sept. '06, p.13
 Winners-Feb. '03, p.6; Feb. '06, p.6

Maps
 Economic atlas-July '02, p.19

Mayors
 ACAA, involvement in-April '04, p.26
 Arkansas Prostate Cancer involvement-Aug. '04, p.11
 Boswell, Dean R. Jr., honored-March '06, p.24
 Brodell, Hubert honored-Oct. '03, p.10; says no to re-run-Feb. '04, p.23
 Bryant, Larry-Sept. '05, p.43
 Bush, Mike-convention letter-June '06, p.13
 Claybaker, Chris-Oct. '05, p.8
 Coberly, Terry-Aug. '05, p.6; Dec. '05, p.26
 Conviction-Jan. '03, p.15
 Coody, Dan-Aug. '06, p.11; City Plan 2025-Nov. '06, p.18
 Dailey, Jim, appointed to national post-Jan. '02, p.6; appointed Fed. Communications Comm.-Feb. '04, p.23; June '04, p.25; Flack jacket-Feb. '03, p.21; Winter Conf. letter-Jan. '05, p.11; Jan. '06, p.17; won't seek re-election-July '06, p.28
 Duncan, L.M.-Aug. '06, p.10
 Gaskill, Mike-Sept. '05, p.15-16, 45; Nov. '05, p.7
 Hays, Patrick, Winter Conf. letter-June '03, p.33; USS Razorback-June '04, p.21; June '04, p.33; Winter Conf. letter-Jan. '05, p.15; Oct. '05, p.10; Winter Conf. letter-Jan. '06, p.21
 Holland, Rick-Aug. '06, p.11
 Hughes, Gary, county judge too-Oct. '06, p.32
 Lagunas-Vasquez, Marco Antonio-Oct. '05, p.10
 Lonoke mayor promotes weatherizing-Nov. '05, p.14-15
 Lyon, William-Sept. '05, p.8
 Maynard, Ray-Sept. '05, p.11
 Montgomery, Jerry-Oct. '05, p.32
 Morris, Stanley-Aug. '05, p.11
 Muse, Paul-Dec. '05, p.28
 Nelson, Stewart-Aug. '05, p.10; Dec. '05, p.26; Profile, new League Pres.-Aug. '06, p.6
 Nichols, Paul-Aug. '05, p.10
 Northcutt, Steve, named to Workforce Investment Board-Aug. '06, p.16

Patrick, Robert-Feb. '02, p.7; Winter Conf. letter-Jan. '05, p.15; Dec. '05, p.26
 Pearce, Frank honored-Dec. '06, p.20
 Penix, Levenis-Sept. '05, p.8
 Prescott mayor heads planning dist.-Oct. '02, p.18
 Priest, Sharon, selected adviser-Jan. '03, p.41
 Privett, Thomas-Nov. '05, p.14
 Redus, Carl-Sept. '05, p.43; Aug. '06, p.11
 Reep, Gregg, honored-Jan. '05, p.20
 Reynolds, Robert-Aug. '05, p.11
 Shipp, Horace-Aug. '05, p.12
 Sinai has Ark. mayor-April '02, p.24
 Swaim, Tommy-Jan. '02, p.6
 Townsell, Tab-Aug. '06, p.10
 Van Pouke, M.L. Jr.-Feb. '06, p.10
 Wallace, Jimmy-Feb. '06, p.10
 West retires-Nov. '02, p.13
 Yarbrough, Gene-Aug. '04, p.6; goals-Aug. '04, p.9

Media
 Prison spokeswoman, dealing with media-May '04, p.8

Mediation
 Generally permissible-Feb. '03, p.11

Medicare
 Medicare drug coverage-Aug. '05, p.12
 Workers' comp tip-Aug. '05, p.16

HIPAA, PHI-Feb. '03, p.9; security and privacy of-July '03, p.28

Municipal League
 Annex-April '02, p.21
 Building renovation, public art-July '04, p.12; geothermal heating, air to be installed-Dec. '05, p.27
 City & Town statement of ownership-Oct. '02, p.30; Oct. '06, p.27
 Computer Assistance Program-Dec. '02, p.10
 District meetings-Sept. '02, p.9; Oct. '02, p.6
 Drug testing-June '06, p.34
 Employees-Jan. '03, p.31
 Executive Committee-Sept. '02, p.11; June '03, p.41; Sept. '03, p.6; Sept. '06, p.6
 Expenses-Sept. '02, p.29
 Finances-July '06, p.9
 Firefighters' income protection-June '02, p.7
 Grant service-Oct. '03, p.25
 Index fund-July '03, p.10
 Index of City & Town-Jan. '03, p.34; Jan. '04, p.29; Jan. '05, p.33; Feb. '06, p.40
 Logos, cities-Sept. '02, p.29; Nov. '02, p.9; Dec. '02, p.23
 MHBf-July '02, p.27; endorses smoking cessation prog.-Sept. '06, p.8
 MTAP-April '03, p.25; June '03, p.8; online accounting-July '04, p.39; training schedule-Aug. '04, p.11
 Officials honored-July '04, p.19
 Officers-July '02, p.5; Jan. '03, p.13; July '03, p.12; July '04, p.5; July '05, p.5; Aug. '05, p.6; July '06, p.5
 Pension Mgt. Trust Program-Sept. '04, p.12
 Planning meeting-Sept. '04, p.6
 Policies and Goals-Aug. '03, insert; July '04, p.8; July '04, p.11; July '06, p.10; Aug. '06, insert
 President-Aug. '02, p.6; July '03, p.11
 Property meeting notice-Sept. '04, p.13
 Proposed legislation-Nov. '04, insert
 Sales, use tax collectors listed-Dec. '05, p.26
 Seminars-Jan. '02, p.33; Land use issues-Sept. '05, p.35; Legislative topics, Nov. '06, p.6
 Technology, computer assisting program-Dec. '02, p.10
 USS Razorback-Sept. '04, p.9
 Vinson, library-March '02, p.7; Aug. '02, p.21
 Woodruff, John, honored-Feb. '06, p.14
 Workers' Comp.-Dec. '02, p.23
 Workshop, 85th Gen. Assembly-Oct. '04, p.23
 Zimmerman, Don, honored-Feb. '02, p.6; Feb. '02, p.12

FALL CONFERENCE

CLE-Nov. '03, p.23
 Form-Oct. '03, p.23; Sept. '03, p.16
 General-Jan. '03, p.6
 Legislature concerns-Jan. '03, p.6
 Program-Dec. '02, p.16; Oct. '03, p.24;
 Nov. '03, p.22
 Questions-Oct. '03, p.24
 Wrap-up-Jan. '03, p.6; Dec. '03, p.6
LEAGUE CONVENTION
 Adrian White Award winners-Aug. '04, p.10
 Attendees-July, '03, p.14; July '04, p.16
 Awards to Legislators-May '05, p.22; certificates given-July '06, p.13; cities, officials recognized-July '06, p.15
 CLE-May '06, p.21
 Coverage-July '02, p.6; July '03, p.6; July '05, p.6; July '06, p.6
 Delegates-July '02, p.12; listed-July '06, p.18
 Executive director's address-July '04, p.10
 Jennings, Marianne Moody-May '02, p.15
 Officers-July '02, p.10
 Policies & Goals-Aug. '03, insert; Aug. '04, insert; Aug. '05, insert; set-July '06, p.10; Aug. '06, insert
 Political candidates speak-July '06, p.12
 President's remarks-July '02, p.8; July '04, p.9
 Program-June '02, p.18; May '03, p.22
 Proposed resolutions/policy changes-June '04, p.6
 Resolutions-July '02, p.11
 Rhodes Award winners-Aug. '04, p.19
 Schedule-April '04, p.33; May '04, p.28; June '04, p.26
 Sponsors-July '02, p.17
 Sponsors-July '04, p.23; July '06, p.16
 Summation-July '04, p.6
 Tentative program-May '02, p.12; June '03, p.22; March '05, p.13; June '05, p.10; June '06, p.14
 Vice Presidents introduced-Aug. '06, p.10
 Workshops-July '04, p.14; July '06, p.11
WINTER CONFERENCE
 Conf. coverage-Feb. '05, p.6; Feb. '06, p.6
 Continuing Legal Education (CLE) offered-Dec. '04, p.15; Dec. '05, p.8
 Exchange students-March '05, p.15; Correction-April '05, p.12
 Financial aid-Feb. '06, p.11
 Little Rock conf.-Dec. '04, p.6
 Tentative program-Jan. '05, p.12; Dec. '05, p.27; Jan. '06, p.18
 Words of wisdom-Feb. '05, p.10
National Center for Small Communities
 Entrepreneur cities-May '03, p.8
National League of Cities (NLC)
 Afterschool Policy Advisors' Network-Nov. '05, p.9
 Always Remember 9/11 Fund-p.6; Aug. '02, p.15
 Anti-eminent domain bill opposition-Nov. '05, p.17
 Congressional-City Conf.-Jan. '02, p.6; April '02, p.6; April '03, p.6; April '04, p.7; April '05, p.6
 Congress of Cities-Dec. '02, p.13; Jan. '03, p.8; Jan. '04, p.6; Indianapolis-Jan. '05, p.6; Jan. '06, p.6
 Congress, NLC scores-Dec. '02, p.9
 Housing survey-Dec. '06, p.40
 Howland Awards Nominations-April '04, p.25
 Hurricane Katrina relief-Sept. '05, p.8
 Inclusive communities-April '06, p.11; Little Rock-June '06, p.23; Aug. '06, p.16
 Nominating Committee-Dailey-Nov. '03, p.15
 Race Equality Week-Sept. '05, p.12
 Salt Lake City-Feb. '03, p.13
 Securing America's future-April '02, p.7
 Seeks partnership with Bush-Nov. '04, p.31
 Small Cities Council-May '03, p.33
 State of America's Cities Survey-March '06, p.31
 Supports FCC, voice-over-Internet-June '05, p.22
 Tax reform opposition-Nov. '05, p.17
Obituaries
 Adams, William Ethan (Bud)-Oct. '03, p.19

Alford, Boyce, Dr.-March '02, p.13
 Anglin, Sue-Dec. '05, p.8
 Apple, E.Q. (Buddy)-July '05, p.31
 Auger, John-Nov. '05, p.18
 Bachand, Doris Lynn-June '05, p.18
 Baker, Marvin (Benny)-May '05, p.27
 Balch, G.I.-March '05, p.18
 Balch, Walter Andrew-Feb. '04, p.14
 Baldwin, Edwin Thomas-June '03, p.16
 Ball, Mack Sr.-Aug. '06, p.17
 Ballard, Bobby Lewis, Sr.-May '02, p.28
 Barker, James Madison Jr. -Feb. '06, p.14
 Barrett, John Moody, IV-April '02, p.12
 Bartholomew, Edward Meehan-May '05, p.27
 Barton, Demetra Parrish-April '02, p.12
 Baxter, Bobbie Joe- Jan. '03, p.23
 Benham, Joe-July '02, p.21
 Benton, Sherbert Cabot-Feb. '06, p.14
 Besharse, Dorothy L. -Aug. '06, p.17
 Bing, Douglas Wayne-April '02, p.12
 Black, Leonard J.-March '06, p.19
 Blair, L.D.-Nov. '05, p.18
 Blanks, Aubrey G., Jr.-March '03, p.11
 Bledsoe, Adolphus Hadley-Feb. '02, p.14
 Blevins, George Charles-Oct. '06, p.15
 Boyd, Horace George, Jr.-March '05, p.18
 Boyd, Irma Jean-June '06, p.22
 Bradley, Don-Feb. '04, p.14
 Brooks, Millie Muriel-Aug. '05, p.28
 Brown, Don F.-Feb. '05, p.37
 Bryant, Eddie B.-July '04, p.37
 Buchanan, Vernon-Jan. '04, p.10
 Burkett, Jimmy Dale-Dec. '03, p.19
 Burnside, Ohmer Clary (Google)-Feb. '03, p.21
 Burris, George W. Butch, Jr.-July '05, p.31
 Caldwell, William Henry-June '03, p.16
 Campbell, Perry-Oct. '05, p.11
 Caristanos, Marjorie Ann (Marge)-Nov. '04, p.15
 Carson, A.A. (Kit)-July '04, p.37
 Castleberry, B.C.-Sept. '02, p.42
 Catalina, Chester-Oct. '02, p.34
 Chambers, Sue Latham-Sept. '04, p.12
 Chairs, Milton Fitzgerald-April '02, p.12
 Childers, Manley (Junior)-Aug. '06, p.17
 Choate, Paul B.-Aug. '05, p.28
 Clark, John E. Jr.-Jan. '03, p.23
 Cochran, Bob-Jan. '03, p.23
 Cook, Elzy Doyle-Feb. '02, p.14
 Cook, Sybil Molene-April '04, p.15
 Cook, William J. (Billy Joe)-Jan. '06, p.14
 Cooper, Jack-Feb. '02, p.14
 Corwin, Orrin Monroe III-Sept. '06, p.19
 Crain, William Stephen-Feb. '06, p.14
 Crowden, Mary-May '02, p.28
 Currie, John Belfield-July '04, p.37
 Curry, Mamie Ruth Chambers-April '02, p.12
 Daniels, Wallace-May '05, p.27
 Davis, Floyd Ray, Sr.-June '02, p.11
 Davis, Thomas E.- -March '06, p.19
 Dawson, A. Banks-May '04, p.14
 Dickson, Lawrence Dale-April '03, p.13
 Dillahunty, W. H. (Sonny)-Aug. '03, p.17
 Dixon, A.J.-April '02, p.12
 Drake, Arvil "Roy"-Dec. '06, p.37
 Duncan, Mattie Bernice-Aug. '04, p.10
 Duncan, Robert-Jan. '03, p.23
 Eakin, George W. (Bill)-Nov. '06, p.27
 Etter, William H., IV-Aug. '02, p.10
 Evans, Raymond Edward-Nov. '06, p.27
 Fann, Ray O.-Jan. '03, p.23
 Farrar, Lloyd-May '02, p.28
 Farrell, Eugene Roy, Sr.-Aug. '04, p.10
 Fenton, James F.-Oct. '05, p.11
 Finley, Julian C.-Feb. '03, p.21
 Fisher, Robert Lewis-April '03, p.13
 Floyd, Margaret Lewellen Kelley-April '06, p.23
 Foreman, James E. (Jim)-Dec. '06, p.37
 Fowler, Jewel Elizabeth Meador Bowles-June '05, p.18
 Gandy, Mary Jane Morris-Sept. '03, p.11
 Garrett, Cecil Bryan-Feb. '04, p.14
 Garrett, Joellen-Nov. '05, p.18
 Garrett, Tilda-Oct. '03, p.19
 Gearld D. Wheeler, Gerald D.-Jan. '04, p.10
 Gentry, Denver Ray-Feb. '03, p.21

George, John Derrell-March '06, p.19
 Gilliam, William C.-Aug. '05, p.28
 Glenn, Lula (Landers)-Dec. '06, p.37
 Glover, William Henry "Bill" -Feb. '06, p.14
 Goldberger, Charles S.-Nov. '06, p.27
 Goldman, Brian Christopher-Feb. '06, p.14
 Goodwin, George-Oct. '04, p.36
 Gowen, Hayward Henry-April '03, p.13
 Graves, Robert Clinton, Sr.-July '05, p.31
 Gray, William Oscar-Aug. '04, p.10
 Griffith, Henrietta (Rheta)-Aug. '05, p.28
 Hall, Joanna Harber-Jan. '03, p.23
 Hall, Oliver Wendell, Jr.-Dec. '04, p.19
 Hankins, Herman Henry-May '02, p.28
 Hanna, Fred B.-Sept. '04, p.12
 Hardin, Jack Kennedy, Sr.-Feb. '02, p.14
 Harris, William Maxfield (Billy Max)-Nov. '05, p.18
 Harwell, Jerry Dale-Sept. '06, p.19
 Hatcher, Durwood Lance-Sept. '02, p.42
 Hawkins, John H., Jr.-Sept. '02, p.42
 Heard, J. Paul-July '06, p.31
 Heard, Sharon Burrow-July '06, p.31
 Heard, Walter L.-Nov. '02, p.34
 Heintz, Thomas Joseph-April '06, p.23
 Henderson, James Clifton Sr. -March '06, p.19
 Hendrix, Owen Buford-July '06, p.31
 Henry, Clara M.-Jan. '03, p.23
 Hess, Mary Emma Sullenberger-Jan. '03, p.23
 Hesser, Carlton-April '02, p.12
 Hickman, James Harry, Dr.-March '04, p.11
 Hill, Donna Hughes-Sept. '02, p.42
 Hoggard, Jim-Dec. '03, p.19
 Holiman, Helen W.-Aug. '03, p.17
 Hook, Norman M.-Aug. '02, p.10
 Horst, Howard Herman-Sept. '04, p.12
 House, W.D.-March '03, p.11
 Hubbard, George-March '06, p.19
 Hunt, Alice Mae (Jo)-Oct. '05, p.11
 Huey, Clint-Aug. '02, p.10
 Hyde, Leland S.-July '06, p.31
 Irwin, James Clark-May '04, p.14
 Jackson, Robert-Aug. '04, p.10
 Jefferson, Nathan-Dec. '05, p.8
 Jenkins, Charlie L.-Jan. '02, p.44
 Jenkins, W.C. (Rube)-Oct. '05, p.11
 Jenigan, W.J., Jr.-June '05, p.18
 Johnson, E.W., Jr.-Dec. '03, p.19
 Johnson, William E. (Bill)-Sept. '04, p.12
 Johnston, Glenn W.-May '04, p.14
 Johnston, Rudolph (Rudy) W.-May '05, p.27
 Johnston, Thomas Alfred-Sept. '05, p.45
 Jones, Charles Darwin-Nov. '05, p.18
 Jones, Harold Eugene (Dopie)-March '05, p.18
 Jones, Johnny-June '05, p.18
 Jones, William Thomas (Tommy)-Jan. '02, p.44
 Keller, David Lee-Dec. '06, p.37
 Kelly, Thad R. Jr.-Feb. '06, p.14
 Ketchum, Marguerite Dawson-Feb. '05, p.37
 Lacey, James (Cutter)-Sept. '02, p.42
 Langley, Edsel Clinton-June '06, p.22
 Lann, Bobbie Gene (Bob)-Sept. '06, p.19
 LaVelle, Mary Lou-July '05, p.31
 Leath, Arther E.-Oct. '02, p.34
 Leibrock, George Lawrence (Buddy) Jr.-June '06, p.22
 Lewis, Joe-Feb. '05, p.37
 Lewis, Robert L.-July '06, p.31
 Lindsay, William K.-Sept. '03, p.11
 Lippard, Charles Richard (Rick)-March '06, p.19
 Mann, Woodrow Wilson, Sr.-Aug. '02, p.10
 Markley, J. Howard-April '06, p.23
 Marks, Malcolm (Lamar)-Dec. '03, p.19
 Marshall, Jerry Jean Wells-March '06, p.19
 Mathis, Delilah Leheh Standridge Chivers-Nov. '04, p.15
 Matthews, Charles-Nov. '06, p.27
 May, Larry Wayne-Dec. '03, p.19
 McConnell, Leslie-April '03, p.13
 McEntire, J.A. Jr.-Jan. '03, p.23
 McKinney, Charles-March '02, p.13
 McMath, Sidney Sanders-Oct. '03, p.19
 Mc-Millan, Lee Lorn-Feb. '05, p.37
 Merritt, Dana-April '04, p.15

Miller, Harriett Willene-Aug. '04, p.10
 Mills, Joel-April '02, p.12
 Mitchell, Ken-Nov. '05, p.18
 Mitchum, Jim A.-July '05, p.31
 Moore, Marvin Eberle-Sept. '04, p.12
 Moore, Walker-Feb. '04, p.14
 Morris, Jasper-Jan. '03, p.23
 Morris, Tim-April '02, p.12
 Morrison, Billy Ray-March '03, p.11
 Morrow, Mildred-April '06, p.23
 Moss, William Edwin Jr.-July '03, p.39
 Mowder, Charles (Chuck)-June '05, p.18
 Mullen, Claude Durham-July '02, p.21
 Murphy, Maxine Long-Jan. '03, p.23
 Mussino, Earl-Feb. '04, p.14
 Myers, Ethel-March '02, p.13
 Neff, Mida-Aug. '03, p.17
 Nelson, Richard Franklin-Nov. '04, p.15
 Nesbitt, Jesse-March '02, p.13
 Nipp, Willie Joe-Sept. '03, p.11
 Nowlin, Robert W. -July '03, p.39
 O'Daniel, Eugene-Jan. '03, p.23
 Oates, R.H. (Bill) -April '03, p.13
 Oswald, Sterlene-Sept. '02, p.42
 Pamplin, David Eugene-July '03, p.39
 Parker, Karen Sue-April '03, p.13
 Parker, Ted C.-Jan. '06, p.14
 Parks, Donald E.-Dec. '06, p.37
 Paulus, E.F. (Bebe), Jr.-June '04, p.8
 Pearce, Franklin Southard-Feb. '06, p.14
 Pennington, James O'Neal, M.D.-July '02, p.21
 Perkins, Fred M. Sr.-March '06, p.19
 Pettigill, Dennis Harley (D.H.) Jr.-March '06, p.19
 Pettit, Lester Townsend (Jackie)-April '04, p.15
 Piechocki, Charles-Oct. '04, p.36
 Pierce, Cloyce-April '03, p.13
 Porhamer, John Fredrick-Feb. '04, p.14
 Poyner, John D.-Jan. '03, p.23
 Prewett, William Thomas (Bill)-Aug. '02, p.10
 Pulley, Joseph Clarence-Dec. '03, p.19
 Pumphrey, John L.-July '02, p.21
 Purdom, Tommie Dean-Jan. '04, p.10
 Reagan, William Dean-July '06, p.31
 Reed, Floyd Leon-Jan. '05, p.23
 Reynolds, E.M., Jr.-June '05, p.18
 Ridgeway, Clarence-May '04, p.14
 Ripling, William John Jr.-Nov. '02, p.34
 Roberson, Wayne V. (Hap)-Oct. '05, p.11
 Rockefeller, Winthrop Paul-July '06, p.31
 Roddey, William David, Jr.-April '02, p.12
 Ross, Raymond (Pete)-Oct. '06, p.15
 Rowe, Gerald (Jerry)-Sept. '06, p.19
 Rowland, Mildred Manis-May '03, p.35
 Sawyer, Lecil Richard (Tom)-Sept. '04, p.12
 Schmitt, Edward D.-Sept. '04, p.12
 Scott, William Lonnie-Aug. '05, p.28
 Shepherd, Cotis Veltton-Oct. '02, p.34
 Shoptaw, Jewell Nathan-April '02, p.12
 Short, Harold, Dr.-July '02, p.21
 Simard, Vera B. Jackson-July '02, p.21
 Simmons, Rosebud Jackson-Aug. '02, p.10
 Simmons, Roy E.-July '05, p.31
 Simpson, Vernon Bateman (Dugan)-May '05, p.27
 Sipes, Raymond J.-July '04, p.37
 Smith, J.D.-Jan. '06, p.14
 Smith, Jesse Dewey-March '04, p.11
 Sorrells, Leon Bradford-Nov. '06, p.27
 Sparks, Oswald-July '04, p.37
 Sparrow, Chester-Oct. '03, p.19
 Snodgrass, Roy Earl-Feb. '06, p.14
 Starnes, Mary Ann-Sept. '04, p.12
 Stauber, Kelly-Jan. '03, p.23
 Steel, George Edwin (Jetty)-March '06, p.19
 Stevens, Jim-June '06, p.22
 Stevens, Robert Mayo-March '06, p.19
 Stone, Herb E., Dr.-Jan. '04, p.10
 Stuckey, Monroe F.-April '03, p.13
 Swint, Lundy Grayden-Feb. '01, p.18
 Tabor, Alfred-April '06, p.23
 Taylor, H.A., Jr.-June '04, p.8
 Templeton, Joe L. Sr.-Nov. '05, p.18
 Thomas, Charles Dawes-Dec. '03, p.19
 Thomas, Samuel Carlson Jr.-June '02, p.11
 Toothaker, Allen Ray-March '04, p.11
 Townsend, A. Wayne-Jan. '03, p.23

Treadway, Joe, Jr.-April '04, p.15
 Trumbo, Trent-April '02, p.12
 Turner, Eddie-Jan. '02, p.44
 Vance, Howard Grant-Sept. '05, p.45
 Vest, Buford W.-Nov. '04, p.15
 Villneff, Jerry-Aug. '02, p.10
 Wallis, Glen Jr.-Sept. '02, p.42
 Walters, W.H.-March '05, p.18
 Ward, Ralph-July '06, p.31
 Wells, Bill G.-Dec. '02, p.30
 West, Dorothy Louise-July '03, p.39
 Whitaker, Thomas J., Jr., Dr.-March '02, p.13
 White, David Riley-Jan. '03, p.23
 White, Frank D.-June '03, p.16
 White, S. Patrick-July '02, p.21
 Wicklund, William Frederick-June '02, p.11
 Wilder, Cain-Aug. '05, p.28
 Wieman, Clarence G.-Oct. '06, p.15
 Wilkinson, Nelda-Feb. '04, p.14
 Williams, Paul X Jr.-Nov. '05, p.18
 Williamson, Howard A. (Bud)-Sept. '02, p.42
 Williamson, Joseph Harold-Oct. '02, p.34
 Wilson, Lucille Stevens-Dec. '03, p.19
 Workman, Alfred (Al) Floyd-Jan. '04, p.10
 Wright, L. (Bill) William-Jan. '03, p.23

Opinion
 Amendment 3: Keeping Tax Fairer-Oct. '02, p.11
 Annexation survey, Breshears, Sarah-Feb. '05, p.35
 Awaiting Our Inevitable Demise: Brummett, John-Sept. '02, p.25
 Ethics Commission, studies gifts, trips-July '02, p.23
 Food tax: Zimmerman, Don-Sept. '02, p.5; from Aging Ark.-Sept. '02, p.33
 Green building-April '06, p.16
 Internet sales tax: Barnes, Steve-Jan. '03, p.19
 President's budget: Coulter, Hope-April '05, p.23
 'Public Use' Question: Carpenter, Thomas M.-Aug. '05, p.22
 Sales tax: Riggs, John-Nov. '03, p.16; Peirce, Neil-May '03, p.34; post-election dilemma-Nov. '04, p.30; state, city budget cuts-March '05, p.37; surplus short-lived-Nov. '06, p.11
 Tax reform: Brummett, John-Dec. '03, p.11; Johnson, Clint-Oct. '04, p.8

Parks and Recreation
 Army engineers close parks-Feb. '04, p.15
 Budget-Nov. '03, p.8
 Camden, riverfront park-June '06, p.10
 Commissioners-April '03, p.10
 First Tee golf-Sept. '03, p.11
 Little Rock restoration-Sept. '02, p.21
 Miss. River Trail-Nov. '06, p.22
 Pulaski Co. Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, opens-Oct. '06, p.6
 Skateparks-Nov. '05, p.6-8
 Soccer match-Nov. '03, p.15
 Trails, Wrightsville-Nov. '06, p.33
 Weapons-Sept. '03, p.27

Personalities
 Brailsford, Pres-Nov. '04, p.6
 Brummett, John-July '03, p.6
 Clark, Wesley-July '03, p.6; Oct. '03, p.6
 Friedl, Fritz-Aug. '05, p.18
 Jacobs, Jane-Aug. '06, p.16
 Patrick, Robert-Aug. '03, p.20
 Witt, James Lee speaks-Sept. '06, p.9

Personnel
 Auto allowance-May '03, p.17
 COBRA-Sept. '03, p.12
 FLSA-Sept. '03, p.8; Sept. '04, p.10; Aug. '04, p.13
 Felon, code enforcement-Oct. '03, p.15
 Firefighter pay-Aug. '03, p.8
 Immigration forms-Sept. '04, p.17
 Military duty, leave-Feb. '03, p.11; Nov. '03, p.8
 Overtime rules-May '04, p.14; for police/fire fighters-Aug. '04, p.13
 Maternity leave-Nov. '03, p.19
 Payment in lieu of insurance-Sept. '03, p.15
 Pensions-Jan. '03, p.16; Feb. '03, p.11
 Public servant-June '03, p.10

Teen hiring-June '03, p.44

Planning and Zoning
 Annexation-July '02, p.18
 Area boundary-Sept. '04, p.28
 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code revisited-Sept. '05, p.36
 Board of Adjustment-Sept. '03, p.10
 Child care centers-April '03, p.20
 Citizen participation- March '03, p.12; Dec. '05, p.28
 Commission, volunteers-Nov. '03, p.26; Nov. '05, p.36; appeals-Nov. '06, p.24
 Definitions change-Jan. '03, p.26
 Density-Feb. '06, p.32; March '06, p.38; April '06, p.40
 Designing regulations-Nov. '02, p.12
 Development impact fees-April '05, p.24
 Downtown-Jan. '02, p.14; Feb. '02, p.24; March '02, p.6
 Emergence theory-Sept. '06, p.20
 Fairness-Oct. '03, p.20
 Fire Code-Aug. '04, p.20
 Floodplain regulation enforcement-Oct. '05, p.24
 Healthy downtown-April '02, p.14
 Higher densities-Feb. '05, p.32
 Highest and best use-Aug. '02, p.8
 Home occupations-Dec. '02, p.8
 Jacobs, Jane, remembered-Aug. '06, p.17
 Land use-Oct. '02, p.12; regulation-Oct. '04, p.24
 Main Street Arkansas Programs-May '04, p.26
 Maintenance costs-Jan. '02, p.18
 Manufactured housing-June '03, p.14; Part II, July '03, p.36; Oct. '03, p.8
 Misconceptions, urban planning-June '04, p.20
 Municipal annexation-April '04, p.24
 Paragould, community development plan-Sept. '05, p.15
 Plan review-Dec. '03, p.26
 Planning commissioner test-Aug. '03, p.16
 Planning: General, beyond city boundary-Aug. '05, p.32; new year, new ideas-Jan. '06, p.28; small improvements, big change-May '06, p.22; too much information?-Dec. '06, p.24
 Poor chairmanship-Nov. '04, p.20
 Poverty-Sept. '02, p.16
 Public safety-March '04, p.22
 Recreation plans-May '03, p.30
 Recycling-July '04, p.36; July '05, p.36
 Regulations-Nov. '02, p.12
 Rural water districts-June '05, p.32; League seminar-Nov. '06, p.6; Nov. '06, p.15
 Search for industry-Feb. '04, p.20
 Sidewalks-May '05, p.32
 Smart Code-Dec. '04, p.20
 Subdivisions- Feb. '03, p.8
 Urban design-March '05, p.32
 Why we plan-Jan. '05, p.28
 Working with nature-Jan. '04, p.24
 Zoning-May '02, p.20; June '02, p.8; plan before zoning-June '06, p.24; conditional use-July '06, p.34; mixed-use-Aug. '06, p.20; avoid disputes-Oct. '06, p.16

Police
 Advertising-Feb. '03, p.20
 Chief appointment-Oct. '03, p.14
 Chief certification-Aug. '03, p.15
 Click it or ticket campaign-May '03, p.20
 COPS in schools grants-April '03, p.23; May '03, p.9
 COPS program-March '05, p.6
 Donating confiscations-Jan. '03, p.15
 Expense for training-Oct. '03, p.15
 Handicapped parking-Dec. '03, p.12
 Homeland security grants-Sept. '03, p.17
 Law Enforcement Officer of Year-Nov. '03, p.14
 Morrilton, community police training-June '05, p.25
 NLRPD physical abilities test-Aug. '05, p.14
 Police dogs, use-July '03, p.24
 Racial profiling-Dec. '03, p.8; sample-Dec. '03, p.30
 Records-Jan. '03, p.1
 State sues body-armor maker-Sept. '05, p.12

Survival Skills Seminar-Jan. '04, p.10
 Subpoenas, summons fees-Oct. '03, p.15; Dec. '03, p.12
 Work addiction-Aug. '03, p.6

Preservation
 AHP documents PWA buildings-Feb. '05, p.27
 Cemeteries, municipal-June '06, p.7
 Historic preservation grants awarded-July '06, p.29
 National Trust for Historic Preservation, Rural Heritage Development Initiative overview-Sept. '06, p.13

Presidents
 U.S. campaign-July '03, p.6
 Mayor Jim Dailey-Aug. '02, p.6
 William F. Clinton Library preview-Dec. '03, p.17

Race, Race Relations
 (See Diversity and Race Relations)

Religion
 Title VII-May '02, p.8

Retirement
 ADJRS-April '05, p.17
 Ark. Public Emp.System-July '02, p.21
 Deferred Compensation Plan, CitiStreet-Aug. '04, p.10
 District judges retirement system-July '04, p.27
 Eligibility-Oct. '03, p.14
 McFadden v. Weiss-Dec. '05, p.12
 Pension board member-Aug. '03, p.15
 Pension revenues, Act 1997-Sept. '03, p.23
 Seminars, APERS-Nov. '04, p.27; Feb. '05, p.31

Safety
 League safety videos-Feb. '05, p.22
 School safety-Sept. '05, p.37
 Traffic-May '06, p.28

Sales Tax
 (also see Taxes)
 Broadening base-July '03, p.8
 Businesses collecting listed-Dec. '05, p.26-27
 Collecting state-May '04, p.9
 Helena-West Helena, proposal rejected-April '06, p.22
 Internet-Jan. '03, p.19
 Local option, survey-Oct. '04, p.13
 Mosquito control-April '04, p.13
 New categories-June '04, p.13
 Open records, DF&A, Dec. '05, p.26
 Solid waste-March '04, p.8
 Streamline tax, League seminar-Nov. '06, p.6
 Tax reform sorely needed-Oct. '04, p.8

Selective Service
 Paying-March '03, p.8

Sister Cities International
 50th anniversary-Aug. '06, p.12; Sept. '06, p.25
 Advantages-Aug. '04, p.14; promoting peace-July '06, p.38
 Banks, Sherman addresses issues-Feb. '05, p.17; Addresses conference-Sept. '05, p.18-20
 Building connections-Feb. '04, p.21
 Builds trust-March '04, p.9
 City events-Aug. '05, p.26
 China, pt. 1-Feb. '05, p.26; March '05, p.26; April '05, p.18
 Conference-June '05, p.26; Sept. '05, p.18-20; Aug. '06, p.12
 Developing business-Sept. '04, p.22
 Economic benefits-May '04, p.18
 Education, resources-Sept. '06, p.24; economics, related to-Nov. '06, p.28; prioritizing-Dec. '06, p.28
 Establishing relationships-July '04, p.30
 Following protocol-April '04, p.21
 Global economy-Oct. '05, p.18; globalization, myths-Aug. '06, p.24; globalization, pros/cons-Oct. '06, p.20
 Import/Export, products-Nov. '04, p.14; regulations-May '06, p.26
 International business-Jan. '05, p.22; ties-July '05, p.30; Nov. '05, p.30; Dec. '05, p.18; Ark. role-Jan. '06, p.22; tax law-April '06, p.30; import/export regulations-

May '06, p.26
 Islamic world-May '05, p.26
 League, membership-April '02, p.18
 North Little Rock signs with Uruapan, Mexico-Oct. '05, p.10
 Promoting Ark. abroad-Sept. '05, p.30
 Responsibilities to foreign cities-Dec. '04, p.14
 Tax law, intl.-April '06, p.30
 Terrorism, post 9/11-Feb. '06, p.22; March '06, p.28
 Voyage in Italy-Nov. '04, p.28
 War, effects of-June '06, p.28
 What Ark. has to offer-Oct. '04, p.18

State Offices
 ADEM, new director named-July '06, p.30
 ADFA-Aug. '03, p.12
 Dept. of Economic Development-Sept. '03, p.11; helps Pine Bluff-Nov. '04, p.18
 Dept. of Labor, inspection aid available-Oct. '06, p.8
 Workforce Investment Board, new member named-Aug. '06, p.16

Solid Waste
 Subject to state sales tax-March '04, p.8

Streets
 Dedication-Feb. '03, p.10

Supreme Court of Ark.
 'Knock and talk' rule-April '04, p.18
 Statement on limited jurisdiction-Dec. '02, p.12

Supreme Court of US
 Age discrimination-May '05, p.17
 Arrest rules-March '04, p.16
 Eminent domain-Sept. '05, p.28

Taxes
 (also see Sales Tax)
 Act 1629-May '02, p.17
 Banks-Oct. '03, p.15
 Beer, wine in clubs-Nov. '03, p.19
 Bush cuts flawed-Feb. '04, p.13
 Collecting-Oct. '03, p.29
 Millage-Nov. '04, p.19
 Prepared food-Nov. '03, p.19
 Proposed gas/car tax-Feb. '05, p.27
 Sales tax for school use-Sept. '03, p.15
 State tax, up-April '06, p.21
 Streamline tax, Internet-April '03, p.29; July '03, p.22; League seminar-Nov. '06, p.6
 Tax law, intl.-April '06, p.30
 Tourism tax, collections up-March '06, p.20
 Voter-approved use-Aug. '03, p.14

Terrorism
 Bogus products-Feb. '03, p.7
 Homeland Security software grants-April '02, p.19
 Resources to deal with-Feb. '02, p.12
 Sister Cities, economic effects- Feb. '06, p.22; March '06, p.28
 Top threats after 9/11-Sept. '02, p.24

Tobacco
 Ark. Tobacco Control Board, director named-March '06, p.20
 Cessation-Jan. '06, p.32
 Clean Indoor Air Act-June '06, p.38
 Secondhand smoke-Nov. '04, p.8
 UAMS smoke-free-Dec. '03, p.24; Nov. '04, p.34
 Washington smoking ban-Nov. '05, p.19

Tourism
 Clinton attractions-Dec. '04, p.9
 Clinton Presidential Center-Feb. '02, p.14; Dec. '04, p.6
 Helitours-April '06, p.22
 Hot Springs, April '03, p.24
 Seminar-Oct. '03, p.19
 Tax, collections up-March '06, p.20
 Themes-Dec. '03, p.25

Training Opportunities
 Family and Domestic Violence-April '04, p.14
 Forensic epidemiology-July '05, p.31
 Rural Gateway-July '05, p.31
 Terrorism-July '03, p.27

Transportation
 Bicycle, use and accommodation-Dec. '06, p.30
 Intl. Transportation and Econ. Development Conf.-April '06, p.26
 Interstate 49-May '03, p.20

Planning-Jan. '06, p.24
 Rail infrastructure-Sept. '03, p.11
 State Highway jurisdiction-Sept. '03, p.15
 State Highway meetings-Jan. '04, p.28
 Streets, design-Nov. '06, p.30
 SUVs-Sept. '03, p.20

Trees
 Free-Feb. '03, p.7
 Money for trees-Aug. '03, p.27
 Planting-Oct. '03, p.15
 Preservation-Aug. '03, p.26; Rural conservation trees-Oct. '06, p.9
 Tree City USA (see also Urban Planning)-May '06, p.30

Turnback
 Estimated-Feb. '02, p.25
 Excess funds-Jan. '02, p.10
 League, seminar-Nov. '06, p.6; asks legislature to increase-Dec. '06, p.29

Urban Forestry
 Aging trees-Jan. '02, p.18
 Ark. Relat Project-April '05, p.22
 Ark. Urban Council Conference-Feb. '06, p.26
 Benefits, why plant?-Oct. '02, p.22; trees and storm water-July '03, p.34; July '04, p.34; save energy-Jan. '06, p.26; pollution, erosion control-April '06, p.34; overview-Oct. '06, p.25
 BIG index-Sept. '02, p.28
 Bradford pears-Nov. '05, p.34
 Buying trees-July '05, p.34
 Christmas trees-Dec. '05, p.22-23
 Community forestry-Nov. '02, p.24
 Compacted soil-Oct. '05, p.22-23
 Fayetteville, trees-June '03, p.20
 Financial aid-April '04, p.22
 Firefighting video-Feb. '05, p.30
 FireWise-Feb. '03, p.18; Dec. '04, p.18, Sept. '05, p.11
 Forestry Commission Conference-May '02, p.18
 Geographic info systems-June '02, p.15
 Grants-May '02, p.19
 Health-Feb. '02, p.22
 Helpful books-March '04, p.20
 Historic, celebrity trees-Sept. '04, p.26; July '02, p.20
 Hot Springs tree value-April '03, p.18
 Hydrolysis, wood uses-Sept. '03, p.26
 LRAFB, Tree City USA-Jan. '05, p.26
 Maintenance-July '06, p.42
 National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, meets-Dec. '06, p.32
 Natural disaster, preparation-Aug. '06, p.28
 Natural landscape saving-Nov. '03, p.12
 Over-Developing-Aug. '04, p.18
 Planting-Oct. '03, p.18
 Preservation-Jan. '04, p.22; June '04, p.16; Aug. '03, p.26; Rural conservation trees-Oct. '06, p.9
 Pruning-Dec. '03, p.18
 Savannah, ISA Conf.-May '05, p.30
 Selecting trees, urban environment-10 worst trees-Dec. '02, p.14; 10 best trees-Jan. '03, p.24; Aug. '05, p.30; public parks-March '06, p.32; myths/misconceptions-June '06, p.32; add fall color-Sept. '06, p.28
 Students plant trees-Feb. '05, p.30
 Tree City USA- March '02, p.14; Aug. '02, p.18; March '03, p.22; Jan. '05, p.26; improve downtown-Sept. '05, p.34; May '06, p.30
 Tree ordinance-June '03, p.20
 Urban forestry grants-March '05, p.30; Feb. '06, p.26
 Uses for old trees-Feb. '04, p.18
 Web sites-May '03, p.27

Volunteerism
 Friedl, Fritz-Aug. '05, p.18
 Planning commission volunteers-Nov. '03, p.26
 Summit vol. conf.-March '05, p.22
 Volunteer Communities of the Year, named-Nov. '02, p.17; Nov. '03, p.14; Dec. '03, p.20; Dec. '04, p.12; Jan. '06, p.10; Feb. '06, p.6; Dec. '06, p.8
 Volunteerism survey-Oct. '04, p.19
 Why volunteer?-Dec. '02, p.11

Youth councils-Aug. '05, p.17

Wastewater
 Fayetteville OKs plant-Nov. '05, p.18
 Funds-April '04, p.12
 Online-Feb. '02, p.23

Water
 Publishing water quality report-Nov. '03, p.8
 Rural Water Districts, League seminar-Nov. '06, p.6; Nov. '06, p.15
 Supply, Lake Fort Smith expansion-Dec. '06, p.6

Weatherization Assistance Program
 Conservation shown-Nov. '03, p.14
 Directors-Sept. '02, p.27
 In action-Nov. '04, p.27; Lonoke-Nov. '05, p.14; Nov. '06, p.32
 Proclamation-Sept. '02, p.26; Sept. '03, p.26

Youth
 100 Best Communities for Young People Competition-Oct. '06, p.32
 After-school activities-Nov. '05, p.9
 City Year, Red Jacket Ball-June '06, p.22
 Little child, Heber Springs plan-Dec. '05, p.28
 Underage drinking-June '05, p.16
 Skateparks-Nov. '05, p.6

ACAA
 CLE-May, '03, p.15; Nov. '03, p.23

Amendments
 Amendment 4, 14-May '04, p.16
 Amendment 78-Feb. '05, p.25
 Amendment 79-Jan. '05, p.43
 Amendment 80-Oct. '02, p.14; May, '03, p.17

Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions 2002-2006

Arkansas Constitution
 Two-county cities-Nov. '03, p.19

Arkansas Department of Labor
 Hiring teens-Apr. '04, p.16

Auditors
 New rules affect municipalities-Mar. '04, p.17

Bids
 Purchasing goods- Sept. '02, p.15; reverse auctions-Sept. '05, pp.13-14; reverse sample ordinance-Oct. '05, p.30

Boundary Changes
 (annexation, consolidation, etc.) (also see Property)
 Board membership, post-annexation-Dec. '05, p.17
 Consolidation of two municipalities-Oct. '04, p.16; separate counties-Dec. '05, p.17
 Consolidation and two district judges-July '05, p.28
 Property detachment-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.43

Budget
 Adoption-Nov. '02, p.8
 Alterations-Jan. '02, p.12; Nov. '02, p.8
 Changing fiscal year-Nov. '02, p.11
 Spending of funds-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29

Campaigns
 Advertising, city vehicles-Sept. '02, p.12
 Election day activities-Sept. '02, p.12
 Eligibility-Sept. '02, p.12
 Campaigning hours-Sept. '02, p.12
 Contributions, public employees-Sept. '02, p.12
 Using city offices-Sept. '02, p.12
 Using city-owned equipment-Sept. '02, p.12

Cities
 Ambulance regulation-Sept. '05, p.28
 Boundary changes-Feb. '02, p.8
 Budget-Dec. '01, p.14; Jan. '02, p.2
 College outside aid boundary-Oct. '04, p.16
 Diverting tax revune to county-March '06, p.26
 Fireworks-July '04, p.45
 Incorporation, new-Aug. '06, p.18
 Legal functions-Nov. '02, p.10
 Petition to incorporate, hearing notice-Feb. '06, p.21
 Resale of gas through city contract-Feb. '06, p.20
 Sale of abandoned school-Jan. '04, p.13
 Sales tax, private use of-Feb. '06, p.20
 Smoking restrictions-Sept. '05, p.28
 Specifying brand names-Aug. '04, p.12
 Spending taxpayer dollars to support/oppose a ballot-Sept. '04, p.15
 Suburban Improvement Districts, authority-Oct. '05, p.16
 Suing school board-Sept. '02, p.15
 Transporting defendants, mileage-Mar. '04, p.13

City Attorneys
 County attorneys prorate specific costs-May '05, p.25
 Deputy city attorney needs license-Sept. '04, p.16; Dec. '06, p.22
 Double jeopardy of state misdemeanor for city-Sept. '04, p.15
 Part-time, position ok-Sept. '06, p.18
 Powers-Feb. '03, p.39
 Prosecutor decides 'Thin Blue Line' violators-Aug. '05, p.25
 Serving multiple positions-Sept. '04, p.15

City Employees
 Airport commissioner, conflict of interest-Sept. '04, p.14
 Closed door internal applicant-July '02, p.26
 Council can set office hours-Mar. '02, p.12
 Doing business with city-Sept. '04, p.16
 Education money available for-June '05, p.20
 Pay claim-June '05, p.20
 Salaries-Feb. '03, p.19
 Sex offenders, employment of-Feb. '06, p.20

City Parks
 Tax, improvements-Sept. '02, p.14

City Planning
 Commercial development-July '02, p.24
 Eminent domain-Sept. '05, p.28

Commissions, boards
 Appointment conflict-Sept. '05, p.29
 Assessment board-May '05, p.25
 Board of Zoning Adjustment, composition-Oct. '05, p.16
 Civil service commission, authority-Aug. '06, p.19; reinstatement v. new hire-Oct. '06, p.14
 Conflict of interest, board director of bank and nonprofit-Oct. '04, p.16; public water, facilities boards-Mar. '05, p.25
 Dual service-Aug. '06, p.19; Aug. '06, p.29
 Equalization Board-Apr. '03, p.13; May is appointment time-Apr. '04, p.23
 Fire District post-annexation membership-Dec. '05, p.17
 Public facilities board-May '05, p.24; grant authority-April '06, p.28
 Quorum defined-July '06, p.33
 Terms-Mar. '03, p.8
 Votes to pass-Nov. '02, p.8

Construction
 City contracting, materials-Sept. '02, p.15
 Eminent domain-Sept. '05, p.28
 Energy code-Sept. '04, p.39
 Hiring, construction manager-Jan '04, p.13; registered engineer-Dec. '05, p.16
 Loan, securing for city-owned hospital-Aug. '06, p.19
 Turnback money use-Sept. '05, p.29

County Services
 City owns streets' names-Feb. '02, p.10
 Jail expense responsibility-Dec. '05, p.26
 Salaries-Jan. '04, p.12

Courts and Laws

Business license-Feb. '03, p.11
 City Courts-Mar. '03, p.8
 Common Law of England, fines-July '03, p.26; special fee-Aug. '03, p.15; affecting cities-Dec. '03, p.12
 County court appointments-Nov. '02, p.10
 County judge controls 911 dispatch-Sept. '04, p.17
 County seat not required-Oct. '03, p.29
 Court costs-Mar. '03, p.11; Oct. '03, p.28
 District court-Nov. '02, p.8, Mar. '03, p.8; Mar. '03, p.10; Apr. '03, p.10; Oct. '03, p.29; venue-Nov. '03, p.18; fines-Dec. '03, p.12; clerk benefits-Dec. '03, p.12; municipal fees owed-April '06, p.28; jurisdiction clarified-July '06, p.33
 Double jeopardy of state misdemeanor in city-Sept. '04, p.16
 DUI, reinstating license-Oct. '04, p.34
 Fair housing-July '02, p.24
 Farmers don't need license to peddle-Apr. '05, p.16
 Fines, usury limit-July '02, p.26
 Jail expense responsibility-Dec. '05, pp.26-27
 Judgeship-Nov. '01, p.11; authority over municipal employees-Sept. '06, p.18
 Lawsuit stops referendum query-June '05, p.21
 Old petition signatures invalid for new law-June '05, p.21
 Power to make acquisition-July '04, p.45
 Probation, appeal-Jan. '06, p.14
 Property detachment-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.43
 Satisfy all conditions for license reinstatement-Oct. '04, p.34
 Supreme Court clarifies arrest rules-Mar. '04, p.16
 Supreme Court of Ark., 'knock and talk' rule-Apr. '04, p.18
 Quorum court authority with 911 Board-Mar. '04, p.12
 Quorum court can't levy city court fine-May '05, p.24

MUNICIPAL COURT
 District courts have jurisdiction-May '04, p.17
 Jail expense responsibility-Dec. '05, p.26
 Police complaint fee-May, '03, p.16

Elected Officials
 Conflict of interest-Nov. '02, p.11
 Council can rescind convicted mayor's retirement-June '05, p.21
 City council cannot serve as sewer committee-Mar. '04, p.12
 Incorporation, taking office upon-Aug. '06, p.18
 Salary-Mar. '05, p.25
 State representative, dual service disallowed-July '06, p.33
 Suspended sentence ineligible-July '02, p.26
 Term length-Nov. '03, p.18
 Alderman and Council Members
 Also volunteer firefighter, stipend-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29; Sept. '04, p.18
 City employee as alderman-Sept. '04, p.15
 Hold two positions-Apr. '05, p.16
 Member replacement-Aug. '03, p.15; Sept. '03, p.14
 Payment in lieu of insurance-Sept. '04, p.15
 Residing outside ward-Sept. '04, p.18
 Serves until replaced-Sept. '04, p.18
 Staggered terms-June '02, p.10
 Voting-Mar. '05, p.16; 2/3 of 10-member council-Mar. '05, p.25

CITY CLERK
 Council, board immediate supervisor-Oct. '04, p.17
 Resignation, when effective-Aug. '06, p.29

MAYOR
 Allowed vote to suspend vote rule-July '05, p.29
 Appointment conflict-Sept. '05, p.29
 Conflict of interest-Mar. '02, p.12
 Contract signing-Nov. '03, p.9
 Hiring, firing-Dec. '02, p.7; Apr. '05, p.10
 Non-department head- Apr. '05, p.10

Of second-class city cannot form police committee-Aug. '04, p.12
 Override councils-Dec. '02, p.7
 Oversight-May '04, p.17
 Pension salary-based-Nov. '05, p.25
 Salaries, approving cuts-Nov. '02, p.10
 Salary cuts, approving-Nov. '02, p.10
 State of the city report, mayoral responsibility-April '06, p.28
 Veto affect utilities commission-Feb. '05, p.25
 Veto of appointment to city council-Apr. '05, p.10
 Veto of consolidation-Oct. '04, p.16
 Voting by tiebreaker vote-Mar. '02, p.12

RECORDER/TREASURER

Council, board immediate supervisor-Oct. '04, p.17
 Duties-Jan. '02, p.12
 Hiring assistant-June '02, p.10
 Qualified elector-May '02, p.28

SALARY

District court pay rate-Dec. '05, p.16
 One office, dual pay-Jan. '04, p.21

VACANCIES

District Court-Nov. '02, p.8
 Votes to fill vacancies-Jan. '04, p.21

Elections

Cities help pay gen. election costs-Feb. '05, p.24
 County, tax-Oct. '06, p.14
 Filing deadlines for independents-Dec. '05, p.12
 First election signatures required for referendum-July '02, p.25
 Incorporated town can be tiebreaker-Aug. '04, p.12
 May can be general election for judge-Mar. '04, p.12
 Merger election, no petition required-July '02, p.24
 Municipal election info.-Feb. '04, p.32; Jan. '06, p.34
 Non-partisan-Dec. '05, p.12
 Party affiliation resolutions-Dec. '05, p.12
 Petitions, incorrect title-Nov. '02, p.11
 Present/abstain not part of majority-July '02, p.24
 Registration and residence-Sept. '05, p.29
 Party affiliation, resolutions-Dec. '05, p.12; independent seeks council seat-Aug. '06, p.19
 Special, general-Nov. '02, p.8; Dec. '03, p.13
 Successor airport commissioners-Sept. '04, p.14; appointment-Nov. '04, p.12
 Unopposed candidates, ballot-Apr. '04, p.16
 Voting on ordinances-Nov. '02, p.8

Eligibility to run

City employee-Sept. '03, p.15
 Dismissed city managers-Sept. '04, p.14
 Dist. judge, Amend. 80-May '03, p.17; can run in another county-Jan. '04, p.13
 Election commissioner can't be candidate-Aug. '04, p.12
 Ex-city director-Nov. '04, p.12
 For firefighters-Apr. '04, p.16
 Officials appointed to elected office, running at next election-June '02, p.10
 Officials appointed to elected office, running at party or not choice-Dec. '03, p.14
 Party's right to fill vacancy in nomination-Oct. '04, p.17
 Referrals-Dec. '03, p.13
 Treasurer as elector-May '02, p.28
 Truant city directors-Sept. '04, p.14
 Utilities board, running for multiple offices-May '04, p.16

PRIMARIES

Filing deadlines-Sept. '02, p.14
 Party affiliation resolutions-Dec. '05, p.12

Employment

Advertisement-Apr. '05, p.10
 City can't buy back sick leave-Feb. '05, p.25
 Reinstatement, v. new hire-Oct. '06, p.14
 Religious discrimination-May '02, p.8
 Sex offenders-Feb. '06, p.20
 Suspension, appeals same for firefighters, police-Dec. '06, p.22

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Accommodations-Mar. '05, p.16
 Fair Labor Act-Sept. '03, p.8

DISCRIMINATION

COBRA-Sept. '03, p.12
 Religion, Title VII-May '02, p.8

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Felon code enforcement officer-Oct. '03, p.15
 Firefighter holiday, vacation pay-Aug. '03, p.8
 Leave accrual-Oct. '03, p.14
 Maternity leave-Nov. '03, p.19
 Overtime for uniformed employees-Aug. '04, p.13
 Regulations-Sept. '04, p.10

HIRING AND TERMINATION

Executive session review records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Military duty, leaves-Apr. '03, p.12; Nov. '03, p.8
 Non-department heads-Dec. '02, p.7
 Responsibility-Dec. '02, p.7

Police Officers

(see Police and Law Enforcement)

Environment

Litter law, police enforced-May '05, p.25
 Nuisance property, burning of prohibited-April '06, p.28
 Pollution restrictions affecting wastewater-July '02, p.25

Fees

Cities must deduct union, pro group fees-July '05, p.28
 City bears jail fees until prisoner's conviction-July '05, p.28
 Contract-Dec. '03, p.13
 Court, municipal and district-April '06, p.28
 Filing complaint-May '03, p.16
 Franchise-Oct. '03, p.12; Sept. '03, p.14
 Impact fees for police, roads, fire stations-Oct. '04, p.17
 Property owner's liability-Sept. '04, p.14
 Sale of water-July '04, p.28
 Solid waste fee OK-Feb. '02, p.11

Financial Affairs

Assessing fee-Feb. '03, p.10
 Bonds, issues for non-profits-July '04, p.29; transfer of interest to county-Feb. '06, p.21
 Financing city purchases and agenda-Jan. '02, p.12
 GASB-May '05, p.35
 Illegal exaction-Aug. '02, p.12
 Jail fees-Feb. '03, p.19; May '05, p.24
 Legal investments-Feb. '03, p.10
 School repairs for equality are state role-July '04, p.43
 State of the city report, mayoral responsibility-April '06, p.28
 Turnback money use-Sept. '05, p.29

BIDDING

Budget changes-Aug. '03, p.8
 Buy, sell land-Oct. '03, p.28
 City contracting, materials-Sept. '02, p.14
 City council, authority-March '06, p.26
 Direct deposit-Dec. '03, p.13
 Federal money, bidding with-Feb. '06, p.20
 Lien authority-Oct. '03, p.29
 Note signing-July '03, p.26
 Reverse auctions authorized-Sept. '05, p.13

BUDGET

Adopting a budget-Nov. '02, p.8
 Altering the budget-Nov. '02, p.8

Financial Statements

Property owned by city, sale of abandoned school-Jan. '04, p.13

Fire Departments and Firefighters

833 money-Mar. '05, p.24
 Alarm and sprinkler systems, installation compliance-May '06, p.34
 Alderman as firefighter-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29
 Authority of agencies at scene-Oct. '03, p.28
 City, volunteer departments differ-Oct. '04, p.16
 Compliance, coverage areas-May '02, p.28
 Contracts, transfers-Nov. '02, p.10
 Eligibility to run for office-Apr. '04, p.16

Exams-Aug. '03, p.14

Fire protection district, not municipal agency-Aug. '06, p.18

Outside city limits-Mar. '05, p.24

Prorate volunteer pay-Jan. '04, p.12

Reimbursement for fires outside city-Apr. '04, p.12

Suspension, appeals same for police-Dec. '06, p.22

Volunteers, loss/recovery-Sept. '02, p.14; paramedic pay needed for exam-Oct. '03, p.13

Volunteer fire fund-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29

Fireworks

General-May '03, p.14
 Rules up to city-July '04, p.45
 Regulations, sales licensing-May, '03, p.14

FMLA

Pension time-Jan. '03, p.17

Vs. HIPAA-Aug. '03, p.27

Freedom of Information (FOIA)

911 personal info-Apr. '03, p.10; Nov. '05, p.24; denying tape inspection-Feb. '06, p.21
 Accident reports-May, '03, p.17
 Anonymous police survey-Aug. '02, p.10
 City officials health records-Jan. '04, p.28
 Complaints-March '03, p.10
 Conversation, release of employees'-March '05, p.25
 Custodian decides records release-Aug. '05, p.25; Sept. '05, p.29; upon termination-May '06, p.34; July '06, p.35
 Designated rep-July '02, p.26
 Discipline not public if none-Nov. '03, p.19; disciplinary write-ups-March '06, p.26
 Dismissal file-Apr. '03, p.11
 Eligibility for promotion-July '02, p.26
 E-mail, who determines which are public-Nov. '05, p.24; open meetings violation-Nov. '05, p.24
 Employee may copy own records-Feb. '04, p.12; release files-Sept. '04, p.18
 Employee's personal info private-July '05, p.29
 Evaluations-Mar. '03, p.11
 Exit interview-Feb. '06, p.21
 Fire, pension fund queries-Aug. '05, p.24
 Internal affairs-Apr. '03, p.11; Sept. '03, p.27; Dec. '03, p.12; Dec. '05, p.17; July '06, p.35; Sept. '06, p.18
 Mayor part of council-Nov. '03, p.19
 Medicaid committee-May '04, p.16
 Open worker rosters-May '05, p.41
 Personnel papers, records-Mar. '04, p.13; May '04, p.19; Aug. '05, p.25; Nov. '05, p.26
 Privacy-Jan. '03, p.17
 Records-July '03, p.26
 Records custodian decides on requests-July '05, p.29; Dec. '05, p.17
 Redacting personal info-July '02, p.26
 Re-employment-May '03, p.17
 Reprimands, discipline-Apr. '03, p.11; Aug. '03, p.8; March '06, p.26
 Resigned employee-Mar. '05, p.24; Aug. '05, p.25; resignation letter public-May '06, p.34
 Requests, response to-March '06, p.26
 Resumes open-Nov. '03, p.19
 School district employees-July '02, p.26
 Secrecy-Mar. '03, p.10
 Shifting records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Subpoenaed medical, phone records-Feb. '03, p.19
 State only section-Feb. '03, p.19
 Teacher e-mail-Sept. '04, p.14
 Vague requests-July '02, p.25
 Vol. fire dept. subject to-June '05, p.21
 Waterworks finance records-Sept. '04, p.14

Discipline not public if none-Nov. '03, p.19; disciplinary write-ups-March '06, p.26

Dismissal file-Apr. '03, p.11
 Eligibility for promotion-July '02, p.26
 E-mail, who determines which are public-Nov. '05, p.24; open meetings violation-Nov. '05, p.24

Employee may copy own records-Feb. '04, p.12; release files-Sept. '04, p.18
 Employee's personal info private-July '05, p.29
 Evaluations-Mar. '03, p.11
 Exit interview-Feb. '06, p.21
 Fire, pension fund queries-Aug. '05, p.24
 Internal affairs-Apr. '03, p.11; Sept. '03, p.27; Dec. '03, p.12; Dec. '05, p.17; July '06, p.35; Sept. '06, p.18

Mayor part of council-Nov. '03, p.19
 Medicaid committee-May '04, p.16
 Open worker rosters-May '05, p.41
 Personnel papers, records-Mar. '04, p.13; May '04, p.19; Aug. '05, p.25; Nov. '05, p.26
 Privacy-Jan. '03, p.17
 Records-July '03, p.26
 Records custodian decides on requests-July '05, p.29; Dec. '05, p.17
 Redacting personal info-July '02, p.26
 Re-employment-May '03, p.17
 Reprimands, discipline-Apr. '03, p.11; Aug. '03, p.8; March '06, p.26
 Resigned employee-Mar. '05, p.24; Aug. '05, p.25; resignation letter public-May '06, p.34

Requests, response to-March '06, p.26
 Resumes open-Nov. '03, p.19
 School district employees-July '02, p.26
 Secrecy-Mar. '03, p.10
 Shifting records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Subpoenaed medical, phone records-Feb. '03, p.19
 State only section-Feb. '03, p.19
 Teacher e-mail-Sept. '04, p.14
 Vague requests-July '02, p.25
 Vol. fire dept. subject to-June '05, p.21
 Waterworks finance records-Sept. '04, p.14

Dismissal file-Apr. '03, p.11
 Eligibility for promotion-July '02, p.26
 E-mail, who determines which are public-Nov. '05, p.24; open meetings violation-Nov. '05, p.24

Employee may copy own records-Feb. '04, p.12; release files-Sept. '04, p.18
 Employee's personal info private-July '05, p.29
 Evaluations-Mar. '03, p.11
 Exit interview-Feb. '06, p.21
 Fire, pension fund queries-Aug. '05, p.24
 Internal affairs-Apr. '03, p.11; Sept. '03, p.27; Dec. '03, p.12; Dec. '05, p.17; July '06, p.35; Sept. '06, p.18
 Mayor part of council-Nov. '03, p.19
 Medicaid committee-May '04, p.16
 Open worker rosters-May '05, p.41
 Personnel papers, records-Mar. '04, p.13; May '04, p.19; Aug. '05, p.25; Nov. '05, p.26
 Privacy-Jan. '03, p.17
 Records-July '03, p.26
 Records custodian decides on requests-July '05, p.29; Dec. '05, p.17
 Redacting personal info-July '02, p.26
 Re-employment-May '03, p.17
 Reprimands, discipline-Apr. '03, p.11; Aug. '03, p.8; March '06, p.26
 Resigned employee-Mar. '05, p.24; Aug. '05, p.25; resignation letter public-May '06, p.34
 Requests, response to-March '06, p.26
 Resumes open-Nov. '03, p.19
 School district employees-July '02, p.26
 Secrecy-Mar. '03, p.10
 Shifting records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Subpoenaed medical, phone records-Feb. '03, p.19
 State only section-Feb. '03, p.19
 Teacher e-mail-Sept. '04, p.14
 Vague requests-July '02, p.25
 Vol. fire dept. subject to-June '05, p.21
 Waterworks finance records-Sept. '04, p.14

Dismissal file-Apr. '03, p.11
 Eligibility for promotion-July '02, p.26
 E-mail, who determines which are public-Nov. '05, p.24; open meetings violation-Nov. '05, p.24

Employee may copy own records-Feb. '04, p.12; release files-Sept. '04, p.18
 Employee's personal info private-July '05, p.29
 Evaluations-Mar. '03, p.11
 Exit interview-Feb. '06, p.21
 Fire, pension fund queries-Aug. '05, p.24
 Internal affairs-Apr. '03, p.11; Sept. '03, p.27; Dec. '03, p.12; Dec. '05, p.17; July '06, p.35; Sept. '06, p.18
 Mayor part of council-Nov. '03, p.19
 Medicaid committee-May '04, p.16
 Open worker rosters-May '05, p.41
 Personnel papers, records-Mar. '04, p.13; May '04, p.19; Aug. '05, p.25; Nov. '05, p.26
 Privacy-Jan. '03, p.17
 Records-July '03, p.26
 Records custodian decides on requests-July '05, p.29; Dec. '05, p.17
 Redacting personal info-July '02, p.26
 Re-employment-May '03, p.17
 Reprimands, discipline-Apr. '03, p.11; Aug. '03, p.8; March '06, p.26
 Resigned employee-Mar. '05, p.24; Aug. '05, p.25; resignation letter public-May '06, p.34
 Requests, response to-March '06, p.26
 Resumes open-Nov. '03, p.19
 School district employees-July '02, p.26
 Secrecy-Mar. '03, p.10
 Shifting records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Subpoenaed medical, phone records-Feb. '03, p.19
 State only section-Feb. '03, p.19
 Teacher e-mail-Sept. '04, p.14
 Vague requests-July '02, p.25
 Vol. fire dept. subject to-June '05, p.21
 Waterworks finance records-Sept. '04, p.14

RECORDS

Personnel papers, records-Mar. '04, p.13; May '04, p.19
 Records-July '03, p.26
 Anonymous surveys-Aug. '02, p.10
 Complaints-Aug. '02, p.10; Sept. '02, p.15
 Disciplinary records-Feb. '02, p.11
 Executive Session Review Records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Field notes-Aug. '02, p.10
 HIPAA-Sept. '02, p.14
 Personnel records-Dec. '05, p.17
 Shifting Records-Sept. '02, p.15
 Vs. FMLA-Aug. '03, p.27
 Water bills, records-Aug. '03, p.8

Gaming

Electronic dog, horse racing-July '05, p.28
 Give-away lottery-May '03, p.16

General Assembly

2005 enactments effective Aug. 15-June '05, p.21
 League-initiated bills, 85th-May '05, p.9

Governing Bodies

Executive session-Jan. '02, p.12; Sept. '02, p.15

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Executive session records-Sept. '02, p.15

MAYOR

(see Elected Officials, Mayor)

POWERS OF COUNCIL

Appointing building official-Oct. '03, p.29; Oct. '03, p.33
 Appropriating additional funds-Mar. '05, p.24
 Electing successor airport commissioners-Sept. '04, p.14
 Supervising operations-April '05, p.10
 Travel expenses-Feb. '02, p.8
 Vacancies on city council and boards-Oct. '04, p.16

Highways

Annexations-Nov. '02, p.10
 Franchise, not sell, hwy route-Aug. '04, p.12

HIPAA

Discrepancies-Mar. '03, p.21
 Law enforcement-July '03, p.28
 Open records-Sept. '02, p.14
 Testing impact-Sept. '03, p.28

Jails

Expenses discussed-Dec. '05, p.26
 Tax revenue, use of-Feb. '06, p.21

Judges

County judges control 911 dispatch-Sept. '04, p.17
 Holdover judge's term-Mar. '02, p.12
 Need not reside in Sub-district-Mar. '02, p.12
 One bench per county-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29
 Pension eligibility-Oct. '05, p.16
 Salary and pension-Nov. '05, p.25

Land

Act 1751-July '02, p.24
 Annexation and business-May '02, p.28
 Annexation, election-Jan. '04, p.13
 Annexed fire district fate for county-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.29
 County conveying plot for quasi-public use-May '04, p.17
 Donating school land-Sept. '04, p.18
 Eminent domain-Sept. '05, p.28
 Financing-Sept. '03, p.15
 Improving district can't forgive debts-Sept. '03, p.14
 Rezoning, Amend. 7-Aug. '02, p.10
 Suburban improvement, assessment-Sept. '04, p.17
 To non-profit-May '02, p.28

Legal Liability

Property owner not liable for tenant bill-Sept. '04, p.14
 Resident's injuries-Dec. '02, p.7

Legislation

Clean Indoor Air Act, primer-July '06, p.25
 Effective dates-June '03, p.10; May '06, p.34
 Pension tax revenues, Act 1997 of 2003-Sept. '03, p.23
 Retirement changes-May '03, p.10

Licenses

Interlocal agreement-Mar. '04, p.13
Satisfy all conditions for license reinstatement-Oct. '04, p.34

Mediation

Generally permissible-Feb. '03, p.11

Military

(also see USERRA)

Iraq emergency-Apr. '03, p.12
Paid leave-July '04, p.28
Rights on return-Apr. '03, p.12
Rights-Mar. '03, p.12

Millage

City unaltered by pension millages-Apr. '03, p.10
Law doesn't reinstate pension tax millage-Aug. '04, p.12

Misdemeanors

Vote needed-Oct. '03, p.13

Nonprofit Organizations

Bond issues included in financial report-July '04, p.29
Conflict of interest, board director of bank and non-profit-Oct. '04, p.16
City tax ID-Nov. '04, p.12
Donations from city-Jan. '02, p.12; May '02, p.28; Mar. '05, p.25; Dec. '05, p.16
Taxes-Dec. '05, p.16; exemption for-March '06, p.26

Nuisance Property

Burning of prohibited-April '06, p.28
Citations, giving notice-Oct. '06, p.14
Claims on wastewater facility-May '04, p.17
Eyesores, visibility relief-July '06, p.32

Ordinances

Adding language to adopted ordinance-July '04, p.28
Animal abuse, criminalization-Dec. '06, p.23
City might impair private impact-July '05, p.29
City officials salaries-Feb. '03, p.19
Consolidation of two municipalities-Oct. '04, p.16
Contract with private corporation-July '05, p.28
Counties may regulate junk on private property-Sept. '04, p.18
Difference between ordinances and resolutions-Feb. '05, p.20
Emergency clause, without-Mar. '05, p.16
Fire code-Oct. '03, p.13; violators-Aug. '05, p.24
Holding two city jobs-June '05, p.21
Hunting-Nov. '04, p.12
May city council refer?-Mar. '05, p.16
Meaning, intent-May '03, p.16
Mayor's vote-Feb. '05, p.21; absent-Feb. '05, p.21
Number of-Feb. '05, p.20
Official salaries-Feb. '03, p.19
Police, warrant needed to enforce-Sept. '06, p.18
Publish-May '03, p.16
Quorum- Feb. '05, p.21; mayor counted-Feb. '05, p.21
Readings-June '02, p.10; Feb. '05, p.20
Sales tax for school use-Sept. '03, p.15
Sales tax, ballot for tax use-May '05, p.25
Severability clause-Mar. '05, p.16
Shielded lighting law, sample-July '06, p.27
Specifying name brands-Aug. '04, p.12
State highway-June '03, p.10
Vehicle retrieval-Nov. '04, p.12
Voting-Jan. '02, p.12; Nov. '02, p.8; roll-call-Feb. '05, p.20; number to pass-Feb. '05, p.20; if members absent-Feb. '05, p.21; members present-Feb. '05, p.21

Parks, Recreation

Park commissioner must live in city-Apr. '03, p.10

Pension Benefits

(also see Retirement and Pensions)
Age requirements-Aug. '02, p.10
Clerks-Dec. '03, p.12
Payment restrictions-Sept. '02, p.15
Service credit can precede-Feb. '02, p.10

LOPFI

Benefits not retroactive-Nov. '02, p.11
Disabled benefits-Nov. '05, p.25

Filing time for benefits-May '03, p.16; late filing-Oct. '05, p.16
Interest rate-Jan. '06, p.14
Lowers benefits-Jan. '02, p.10
Pension might cover-July '05, p.28
Retirement age-Sept. '02, p.34
Retirement changes-May '03, p.11

Police and Law Enforcement

911, FOIA-Feb. '06, p.21
ACIC towing rules-Jan. '04, p.12
Advertising-Feb. '03, p.20
Alcohol beverage control agent, probable cause-Mar. '02, p.12
Appointment, by civil service commission-Aug. '06, p.19
Arrests outside officer's jurisdiction-Feb. '02, p.8; Nov. '02, p.8; officers from adjoining states in Ark.-Oct. '06, p.19
Assigning non-city-Feb. '03, p.11
Bail on traffic citation-Mar. '04, p.13
Blue lights-May '03, p.16
Body armor maker sued-Sept. '05, p.12
Canine patrols-July '03, p.24
Chief appointment-Aug. '03, p.8; Oct. '03, p.14
Chief certification-Aug. '03, p.15
Community service, negligence-Feb. '03, p.10
Concealed weapons-Sept. '03, p.27
Constables' rights-Jan. '03, p.17; June '05, p.21
Contracts, transfers-Nov. '02, p.10
Disabled employment-Nov. '05, pp.24-25
Deputized off-duty may serve warrants-Feb. '02, p.10
Dual service-Oct. '05, p.17
Emergency response team cost queries-Oct. '03, p.14
Ethics conflict-Feb. '03, p.19
Excessive force, paint ball gun-Sept. '05, pp.28-29
Expense for training reimbursement-Oct. '03, p.15
Fines' use OK elsewhere-July '02, p.24
Fire marshal arrest authority-Nov. '03, p.18
Hiring and termination, reports-Dec. '02, p.7
Insurance lack, vehicleAug. '05, p.25
Juvenile records-May '04, p.16
Jurisdiction-Aug. '06, p.18
Licenses plates-Sept. '02, p.14
Management, book review-Dec. '03, p.9
Meth labs-Sept. '03, p.28
Mutual aid and assistance-July '02, p.25
Paint ball gun-Sept. '05, p.28
Personnel file, FOIA-Nov. '05, p.26; Dec. 05, p.17
Police committee in second-class city-Aug. '04, p.12
Police-ordered medical treatment-Jan. '04, p.12
Probation, appeal-Jan. '06, p.14
Racial profiling-Dec. '03, p.8; sample-Dec. '03, p.30
Radio use-July '02, p.24
Records, FOIA-Dec. '05, p.17
School districts, no police power-April '06, p.28
Suspension, appeal same for firefighters-Dec. '06, p.22
Warrant, required to enforce ordinance-Sept. '06, p.18
References
(See Legal Liability, Discrimination)
Second class cities-Feb. '02, p.8
Seizing property, pawnshop-May '04, p.16; stolen-Sept. '04, p.15
State highway jurisdiction-Sept. '03, p.15; rail-Jan. '04, p.28
Subpoena, summon fees-Oct. '03, p.15
Terrorism training-July '03, p.27
Ticketing, parking-Jan. '04, p.21; Dec. '03, p.13
Transporting defendants, mileage-Mar. '04, p.13
Vacancies-May '02, p.28
Warrant serving fee-Sept. '03, p.15
Weapons, concealed-Oct. '03, p.14

Property

Cemeteries, restrictions-Dec. '03, p.13

Commercial plat needs city approval-July '02, p.24
Donate school property-Apr. '04, p.16; Sept. '04, p.18
Eminent domain-Sept. '05, p.28
Evicting tenants-July '04, p.28
Improvements to city-leased bldg.-Feb. '05, p.24
Property detachment-June '04, p.12; July '04, p.43
Transfer to nonprofit-May '02, p.28

Purchasing

Purchasing goods-Sept. '02, p.15; reverse auctions-Sept. '05, p.13; reverse auction sample ordinance-Oct. '05, p.30

Records

FOIA requests-Sept. '05, p.29
Outdated-Jan. '02, p.13
Redevelopment Districts Act 1197 of 2001-May '03, p.17
TIF-Sept. '03, p.15

Retirement and Pensions

Age requirements for benefits-Aug. '02, p.10
Age requirements-Aug. '02, p.10
Benefits-Feb. '05, p.24; Apr. '05, p.16
Benefits available at age required-Feb. '03, p.11
Deferred Compensation Plan, CitiStreet-Aug. '04, p.10
DROP, police officer/firefighter-Feb. '03, p.10; proposal-Sept. '03, p.15; ineligible for rehire-Dec. '06, p.22
Disabled-Sept. '03, p.14
District court-Nov. '05, p.25
Eligibility in health care-May '04, p.17
Eligibility-Oct. '03, p.14; municipal judge pay query-Oct. '05, p.16; of city attorneys-July '06, p.33
Judges retirement fund-May '05, p.25
LOPFI, new benefits-Nov. '02, p.11; interest rate-Jan. '06, p.14
LOPFI, retirement age-Sept. '02, p.14
Mayor, pension salary-based-Nov. '05, p.25
McFadden v. Weiss-Dec. '05, p.12
Municipal Health Benefit Fund-Apr. '04, p.16
Municipal judge pensions, cities/counties control-Dec. '06, p.22
Payment restrictions-Sept. '02, p.15
Pension enrollment-Aug. '03, p.14
Pension board member-Aug. '03, p.15
Refusal, council's authority-Aug. '06, p.19
Widow pension benefits-Nov. '03, p.18; payment to remarried widowed spouse-Feb. '04, p.12

Revenue

General purpose spending-Feb. '02, p.8

Roads

Highway annexation-Nov. '02, p.10
Master street plan, authority-July '06, p.32
Private, used publicly-Jan. '02, p.13
Suburban Improvement District, maintenance-July '02, p.24

Sales Tax

(also see Taxes)
Collecting state-May '04, p.9
Effect on food-Mar. '04, p.12
Expenditures-Oct. '03, p.12
For designated purpose-May '05, p.41; Nov. '05, p.24
For school bond-Mar. '04, p.12
For school use-Sept. '03, p.15
Mosquito control-Apr. '04, p.13
New categories-June '04, p.13
On primary ballot-Mar. '04, p.13
Private use of-Feb. '06, p.20
Queries go to DF&A-July '04, p.29; solid waste-July '04, p.43
Relocate-Sept. '04, p.15
Renewal, extending existing tax-Aug. '06, p.29
Solid waste-Mar. '04, p.8
Voters may decide use changes-Mar. '04, p.13

Sex Offenders

City employment of-Feb. '06, p.20
Eviction-Oct. '03, p.33

Solid Waste

Board, voting members-Nov. '05, p.25

Collection, "exclusive right"-July '06, p.32; outside city ok-Dec. '06, p.22
Improvement district way to-Jan. '04, p.13

Taxes

(also see Sales Tax)

Airport tax not for meals-Feb. '02, p.11
Banks-Oct. '03, p.15
Beer, wine in clubs-Nov. '03, p.19
Collecting-Oct. '03, p.29
County, can't add onto existing tax-Oct. '06, p.14
Direct deposit of turnback-Feb. '02, p.11
Diverting, city to county-March '06, p.26
Gift shop tax-June '05, p.20
Jail-Dec. '03, p.13; Feb. '06, p.21
Legislature exempt state food tax, not local-Feb. '04, p.12
Non-payment, padlocking authority-Sept. '05, p.29
Non-profit, support of-Dec. '05, p.16; exemption of-March '06, p.26
Parks and rec. Tax-Sept. '02, p.14
Prepared food-Nov. '03, p.19
Property transfer tax-Apr. '05, p.16
Repealing-Sept. '02, p.15
Street fund diverted to general-June '03, p.10
Water authorities, exemptions-Mar. '02, p.12

Tort Immunity

Rental car damaged, police-Mar. '05, p.25
Two-county library-Nov. '03, p.18
Voter-approved use-Aug. '03, p.14

Transportation and Vehicles

Ambulance regulation-Sept. '05, p.28
Driving with neck brace-July '02, p.26
Licenses plate lights-Sept. '02, p.14
Radar detectors, outlawing-Sept. '02, p.14
Seat belt, responsibility-July '06, p.33

USERRA

Employer discrimination- May '04, p.12
Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act-Mar. '05, p.25

Utilities

Consolidating rural electric cooperatives-Sept. '04, p.15
Interest rates-Oct. '03, p.33
Manager answers to new commission-Feb. '05, p.24
Mayor's veto-Feb. '05, p.25
Sewer rate adjustments-July '02, p.26

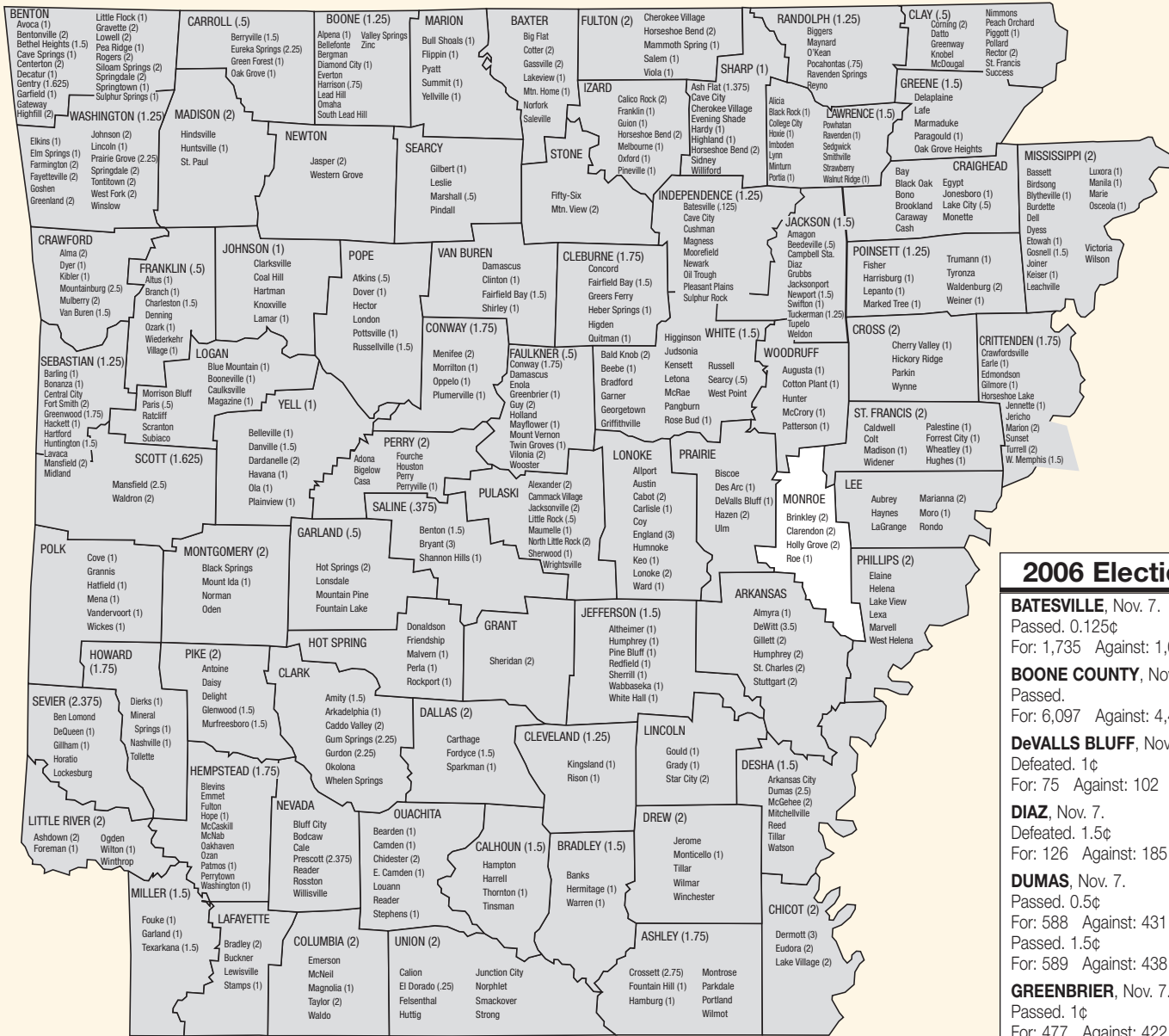
Water

Hooking to city/county sewer systems-Feb. '02, p.10
Interlocal pact-Feb. '03, p.10
Line extension costs-May '03, p.17
Publishing water quality report-Nov. '03, p.8
Wastewater, cost-sharing-Sept. '03, p.14; leases-Oct. '03, p.14; expense liability-Oct. '03, p.14
Water rates-Dec. '01, p.10

Zoning, Land Use and Environment

Amendment 7-Aug. '02, p.10
Board of Zoning Adjustment, composition-Oct. '05, p.16
City, county rezoning-Feb. '04, p.12; who votes-Aug. '06, p.19
Eyesores, visibility relief-July '06, p.32
Firing range-Nov. '05, p.26
Good cause exceptions allowed-July '05, p.29
Master street plan-July '06, p.32
Natural barrier, who defines-July '06, p.33
Open burning regulation-Nov. '05, p.16

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties with countywide tax (shaded is 1¢ unless otherwise noted)
 (2) 2¢ being collected in that municipality
 (2co¢) 2¢ being collected in that county

Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.state.ar.us/revenue/eta/sales/taxrates.html

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2006

Month	Municipal Tax	County Tax	Total Tax	Interest
January	\$32,687,504	\$33,033,724	\$65,721,228	\$184,083
February	\$40,075,677	\$39,032,068	\$79,107,745	\$76,989
March	\$32,771,550	\$32,771,095	\$65,544,012	\$256,793
April	\$32,010,237	\$32,413,705	\$64,423,942	\$174,245
May	\$35,233,916	\$35,510,242	\$70,744,158	\$240,060
June	\$34,375,245	\$33,751,145	\$68,126,390	\$67,572
July	\$35,046,470	\$34,756,794	\$69,803,264	\$322,687
August	\$35,934,262	\$36,071,576	\$72,005,838	\$55,735
September	\$34,686,426	\$34,960,684	\$69,647,110	\$366,161
October	\$35,582,119	\$35,884,130	\$71,466,249	\$129,536
November	\$34,770,334	\$35,090,669	\$69,861,003	\$273,208
December	\$34,662,336	\$34,001,413	\$68,663,749	\$205,399
Total	\$417,836,036	\$417,277,245	\$835,113,281	\$2,352,468
Averages	\$34,819,670	\$34,773,104	\$69,592,773	\$196,039

2006 Elections

BATESVILLE, Nov. 7.

Passed. 0.125¢

For: 1,735 Against: 1,081

BOONE COUNTY, Nov. 7.

Passed.

For: 6,097 Against: 4,425

DeVALLS BLUFF, Nov. 7.

Defeated. 1¢

For: 75 Against: 102

DIAZ, Nov. 7.

Defeated. 1.5¢

For: 126 Against: 185

DUMAS, Nov. 7.

Passed. 0.5¢

For: 588 Against: 431

Passed. 1.5¢

For: 589 Against: 438

GREENBRIER, Nov. 7.

Passed. 1¢

For: 477 Against: 422

GREENE COUNTY, Nov. 7.

Defeated. 0.25¢

For: 2,707 Against: 6,231

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Nov. 7.

Passed. Reallocation 1¢

For: 9,017 Against: 6,417

HELENA-WEST HELENA,

April 11.

Defeated. 1¢ Permanent

Defeated. 1¢ for 10 yrs.

BRYANT, July 11.

Passed. 0.5¢

Passed. 0.375¢ Permanent

Passed. 0.125¢ Permanent

SPRINGDALE, July 11.

Passed. 1¢

TUCKERMAN, July 11.

Passed. 1/4¢

PULASKI COUNTY, Sept. 11.

Defeated. .25%

ENGLAND, Aug. 8.

Passed. 1¢ Build, equip

fitness center

Passed. 1¢ Operate center

December 2006 Municipal Levy Receipts

Alexander	18,357.28	Lake City	4,034.47
Alma	153,724.40	Lake Village	56,533.65
Almyra	1,206.73	Lakeview	4,483.92
Alpena	2,122.49	Lamar	3,766.18
Altheimer	2,340.66	Lepanto	10,624.36
Altus	4,947.90	Leslie	4,478.93
Amity	5,291.23	Lewistown	5,291.23
Arkadelphia	132,984.23	Lincoln	55,913.41
Ash Flat	69,368.75	Little Flock	3,943.31
Ashdown	83,517.50	Lonoke	83,385.78
Atkins	9,456.73	Lowell	197,544.46
Augusta	20,524.13	Luxora	3,111.31
Avoca	4,889.37	Madison	1,204.06
Bald Knob	50,285.55	Magazine	2,601.35
Barling	19,395.86	Magnolia	167,720.38
Bearden	6,915.30	Malvern	255,992.81
Beebe	55,857.77	Mammoth Spring	8,796.64
Bellefleur	2,482.63	Manila	17,510.81
Benton	541,884.36	Mansfield	21,474.37
Bentonville	1,247,211.91	Marianna	62,940.26
Berryville	152,120.43	Marion	152,408.31
Bethel Heights	134,128.31	Marked Tree	25,904.00
Black Rock	2,895.70	Marshall	11,406.24
Blue Mountain	115.30	Maumelle	114,110.26
Blytheville	273,907.54	Mayflower	21,570.73
Bonanza	1,680.67	McCrory	14,624.19
Booneville	88,419.44	Madley	88,232.20
Branch	4,771.51	Melbourne	15,458.32
Brinkley	3,625.55	Mena	113,844.25
Brinkley	91,507.05	Menifee	3,503.43
Bryant	757,962.13	Mineral Springs	3,590.53
Bull Shoals	10,728.61	Monticello	141,625.11
Cabot	537,839.43	Moro	2,830.97
Caddo Valley	32,014.76	Morrilton	116,423.35
Calico Rock	227,726.26	Mountain	1,524.06
Camden	134,512.17	Mountain View	154,712.88
Carlisle	26,131.78	Mountainburg	11,053.84
Cave Springs	5,846.92	Mulberry	22,002.24
Centeron	54,674.83	Murfreesboro	19,589.18
Charleston	20,075.61	Murfree	88,178.94
Cherry Valley	3,035.33	Narver	85,222.26
Chidester	2,741.43	Norfolk	3,738.24
Clarendon	2,108.05	North Little Rock	2,536,467.20
Clarksville	142,214.86	Oak Grove	918.12
Clinton	77,385.57	Ola	6,801.07
Conway	1,542,715.76	Oppo	1,875.30
Corning	78,300.87	Oscar	76,201.21
Cotter	10,076.05	Oxford	2,028.94
Cotton Plant	1,819.91	Ozark	58,599.71
Cove	3,825.55	Palestine	6,615.60
Crossett	326,817.81	Paragould	293,003.71
Danville	34,632.96	Paris	20,106.64
Dardanelle	126,319.91	Patmos	141.10
DeQueen	80,566.13	Patterson	1,159.04
DeValls Bluff	3,747.82	Pea Ridge	15,172.69
DeWitt	132,203.53	Perla	5,432.20
Decatur	13,028.57	Perryville	14,805.21
Dermott	37,542.84	Piggott	27,125.66
Des Arc	14,805.21	Pine Bluff	558,645.49
Diamond City	1,762.41	Pineview	1,468.94
Dierks	14,766.04	Plainview	4,296.09
Dover	13,778.27	Plumerville	5,966.55
Dumas	160,313.32	Pochontas	76,770.52
Dyer	1,098.70	Portia	1,845.46
Earle	22,057.49	Pottsville	12,738.91
East Camden	3,712.65	Prairie Grove	46,610.80
El Dorado	88,213.07	Prescott	93,738.12
Elkins	15,598.89	Quitman	8,312.88
Elm Springs	3,359.56	Ravenden	2,831.95
England	38,677.33	Rebstock	26,821.17
Etowah	555.88	Redfield	12,381.40
Eudora	28,821.17	Rison	7,991.90
Eureka Springs	205,189.42	Rockport	3,126.32
Fairfield Bay	24,119.57	Roe	317.24
Farmington	39,815.40	Rogers	1,943,995.42
Fayetteville	2,207,368.97	Rose Bud	7,469.97
Flippin	39,035.64	Salem	15,520.05
Fordey	74,212.88	Searcy	215,277.52
Forrest City	15,169.53	Shannon Hills	5,179.99
Fort Smith	2,954,798.19	Sheridan	142,228.93
Fouke	6,799.27	Sherill	742.52
Fountain Hill	515.77	Shirley	301,747.18
Franklin	6,062.90	Siloam Springs	466,143.94
Garfield	3,472.95	Sparkman	3,049.95
Garland	28,123.90	Springdale	1,941,535.13
Gassville	28,123.90	Springtown	236.47
Gentry	52,656.19	St. Charles	2,517.24
Gilbert	298.75	Stamps	11,771.03
Gillett	4,677.25	Star City	52,351.39
Gilliam	1,767.32	Stephens	4,584.18
Gilmore	346.93	Stuttgart	253,205.35
Greenwood	53,547.10	Suburban Springs	1,167.18
Groesbeck	12,660.62	Summit	2,112.76
Gould	2,921.62	Swift	2,694.73
Grady	5,037.75	Taylor	5,130.59
Gravette	253,536.72	Texarkana	279,993.61
Green Forest	28,100.15	Texarkana Special	121,578.64
Greenbrier	45,541.74	Vilonia	39,038.88
Greenwood	13,558.33	Walton	91,833.19
Guion	1,623.25	Trumann	60,027.62
Gurdon	27,847.84	Tuckerman	15,203.74
Guy	3,206.75	Turrell	5,873.14
Hackett	2,442.92	Twin Groves	667.58
Hamburg	25,694.27	Van Buren	443,323.84
Hardy	14,215.90	Viola	1,979.74
Harrisburg	19,163.64	Wabbaseka	1,614.15
Harrison	231,702.71	Waldenburg	9,133.73
Hazen	1,782.93	Waldron	38,823.25
Heber Springs	30,256.51	Walnut Ridge	54,745.24
Hermiteage	114,601.00	Warren	5,469.67
Higginville	3,131.69	Washington	768.67
Higginville Special	69,624.19	Weiner	6,799.53
Aviation	18,981.52	West Fork	17,143.43
Highland	24,149.84	West Memphis	506,308.94
Holly Grove	4,208.96	Wheatley	3,645.76
Hope	137,525.52	White Hall	41,087.65
Horseshoe Bend	19,485.00	Wicks	14,159.47
Hot Springs	1,665,365.45	Wiederkehr Village	2,275.29
Hoxie	14,159.47	Wilton	929.37
Hughes	8,838.36	Wynne	150.90
Humphrey	1,977.00	Yellville	18,090.41
Huntington	1,767.76		
Huntsville	46,306.07		
Jacksonville	560,287.25		
Jasper	19,600.50		
Jennette	123.57		
Johnson	42,795.55		
Jonesboro	1,074,419.78		
Keiser	2,467.86		
Keo	1,325.46		
Kibler	1,290.39		
Kingsland	1,257.33		

County Sales and Use Tax

Arkansas County	223,632.70
Ashley County	251,958.56
Crossett	49,828.21
Fountain Hill	1,299.44
Hamburg	24,836.47
Montrose	4,298.78
Parkdale	3,081.06

December 2006 Municipal/County Levy Receipts

McGehee	37,341.90	Gould	5,262.73
Arkansas City	4,812.78	Grady	2,109.12
Dumas	42,800.20	Little River County	147,634.97
Mitchellville	4,061.03	Ashdown	34,412.89
Reed	2,247.05	Ogden	1,540.34
Gassville	2,353.28	Wilton	3,095.57
Wilson	5,495.63	Winthrop	1,338.93
Drew County	251,899.25	Foreman	8,187.85
Monticello	84,437.26	Logan County	80,972.10
Jerome	424.68	Blue Mountain	858.09
Tillar	1,911.06	Caulksville	1,514.65
Wilmar	5,271.56	Magazine	5,948.09
Winchester	1,763.34	Morrison Bluff	481.05
Faulkner County	540,135.85	Pahola	24,097.95
Dumas	755.66	Ratcliff	1,241.62
Enola	1,203.94	Scranton	1,443.14
Mount Vernon	922.16	Subiaco	2,853.79
Wooster	3,304.43	Booneville	26,763.18
Holland	3,695.06	Lonoke County	200,586.01
Franklin County	123,282.41	Allport	1,060.68
Brantley	2,373.69	Avoca	5,572.85
Wiederkehr Village	19,242.63	Carlisle	19,242.63
Altus	5,432.23	Coy	968.81
Charleston	19,714.28	England	25,189.13
Denning	2,692.84	Humnote	2,338.51
Ozark	23,437.72	Keo	1,962.69
Fulton County	74,533.93	Lonoke	35,804.32
Mammoth Spring	21,547.73	Ward	127,457.28
Salem	6,345.85	Madison County	158,621.31
Viola	1,469.85	Huntsville	12,386.05
Horseshoe Bend	27.01	Hindsville	454.03
Cherokee Village	3,121.00	St. Paul	986.77
Ash Flat	7.72	Marion County	66,581.59
Hardy	104.16	Bull Shoals	17,259.49
Garland County	578,267.35	Longview	8,498.03
Lonoke	3,240.40	Pyatt	1,584.38
Mountain Pine	5,144.96	Summit	3,669.75
Fountain Lake	2,725.76	Yellville	8,216.24
Grant County	105,680.15	Miller County	277,399.10
Greene County	283,759.31	Garland	5,493.05
Delaplane	1,141.06	Fouke	5,493.05
Late	3,459.11	Avoca	123,593.66
Paragould	197,816.15	Mississippi County	582,243.07
Hempstead County	223,143.97	Oseola	82,589.98
Hope	80,940.18	Keiser	7,519.18
Blevins	2,782.89	Bassett	1,563.39
Emmett	198.23	Birdson	372.24
Fulton	1,897.71	Blytheville	170,037.65
McCaskill	640.45	Burdette	1,200.40
Oakhaven	411.72	Dell	2,335.78
Ozan	617.57	Dyess	4,792.55
Patmos	465.09	Gosnell	36,925.86
Perrytown	1,944.21	Joiner	5,025.19
Washington	1,128.40	Leachville	18,435.01
McNab	571.83	Luxora	12,255.89
Hot Springs	147,305.85	Manila	28,428.57
Malvern	69,456.21	Marie	1,005.04
Perla	885.43	Victoria	549.05
Rockport	6,097.92	Wilson	8,738.26
Donaldson	2,510.00	Etowah	3,405.96
Friendship	1,586.08	Montgomery County	72,873.53
Howard	2,633.19	Black Springs	495.92
Midway	3,870.82	Norman	1,640.11
Howard County	143,646.81	Oden	4,267.49
Nashville	40,435.64	Mount Ida	2,678.99
Dierks	10,195.95	Nevada County	26,787.99
Mineral Springs	10,477.79	Prescott	19,951.62
Toilette	2,685.76	Bluff City	855.22
Independence County	330,035.54	Bocdaw	833.57
Etowah	102,724.24	Cale	405.96
Cave City	674.27	Rosston	1,434.39
Cushman	5,013.51	Willsville	1,017.62
Magness	2,077.18	Newtown County	24,119.45
Moorefield	1,740.05	Jasper	1,559.33
Newark	13,256.99	Western Grove	1,274.39
Oil Trough	80,234.31	Ouachita County	80,234.31
Pleasant Plains	2,970.71	Fisher	1,733.68
Sulphur Rock	4,578.50	Stephens	7,765.92
Izard County	64,993.70	East Camden	6,080.60
Jackson County	113,165.61	Bearden	7,583.90
Newport	60,852.03	Chidester	2,426.85
Tuckerman	13,688.01	Louann	1,314.54
Grubbs	3,412.26	Perry County	58,947.79
Beaulieu	899.00	Antoine	629.10
Beaulieu	818.01	Bigelow	1,095.51
Campbell Station	1,776.25	Casa	695.93
Diaz	10,003.07	Fourche	196.46
Jacksonport	1,830.78	Houston	529.44
Swifton	1,045.56	Perry	1,045.56
Tupelo	1,378.93	Perryville	4,854.88
Weldon	6,842.12	Phillips County	132,692.49
Jefferson County	551,585.53	Elaine	10,434.42
Pine Bluff	480,043.87	Lake View	6,405.41
Wabbaseka	2,812.26	Lexa	3,992.82
White Hall	41,200.10	Marvell	16,827.75
Redfield	10,073.65	Helena	
Altheimer	10,378.39	West Helena	181,088.39
Humphrey	3,473.97	Pike County	111,197.94
Sherill	4,237.04	Antoine	955.75
Johnson County	92,000.64	Daisy	722.94
Clarksville	61,543.72	Delight	1,905.38
Coal Hill	7,980.99	Glenwood	12,908.76
Hartman	4,751.92	Murfreesboro	10,807.34
Knoxville	4,074.21	Poinsett County	104,909.25
Lamar	11,281.82	Lepanto	14,002.78
Lafayette County	18,247.15	Fisher	1,733.68
Brantley	2,455.34	Harrisburg	14,390.11
Stamps	9,293.66	Marked Tree	18,381.52
Buckner	1,727.02	Trumann	45,225.11
Lewisville	5,604.12	Tyrone	6,026.51
Lawrence County	113,167.53	Weiner	4,989.27
Walnut Ridge	525.19	Waldenburg	525.19
Alton	101,922.20	Walton County	101,922.20
Black Rock	3,528.49	Mena	6,218.53
College City	1,323.80	Cove	314.27
Hoxie	13,862.97	Grannis	4,714.50
Imboden	3,366.09	Hatfield	3,296.05
Lynn	1,550.17	Vandervoort	983.90
Mifflin	561.01	Wicks	5,534.42
Parkton	2,378.95	Posey County	292,076.68
Powhatan	2,465.06	Russellville	289,671.92
Ravenden	2,514.72	Attins	35,203.81
Sedgwick	551.17	Dover	16,256.38
Smithville	395.25	Hector	6,189.41
Strawberry	1,392.69	London	11,314.64
Lee County	25,379.79	Pottsville	15,546.92
Marianna	20,961.96	Prairie County	25,637.77
Aubrey	9,159.19	Haine	9,310.31
Haynes	853.44	Biscoe	2,708.90
LaGrange	486.54	Des Arc	11,000.6

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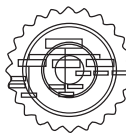
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ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR—Eureka Springs, pop. 2278, is accepting applications for Accounting Director. Must be knowledgeable of municipal fund accounting; hold B.A. from a 4 yr college or equiv comb of ed and exp, and 2 yrs management exp. Will work directly with Mayor and Dept Heads, and prepare yearly reports for the state auditor, and monthly reports for City Council. Sal starts @ \$33,600 DOE, plus insurance and benefits. Send resumes to: Office of the Mayor, City of Eureka Springs, 44 S. Main St. Eureka Springs, AR 72632, re: accounting dept. or contact dwilkerson@cityofeurekasprings.org.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER—Midwest City, Okla., seeks an assistant city mgr. to manage the HR, city clerk, finance, IT, and fleet services depts. Sal. range is \$75,767-\$101,536 DOE. For a complete job announcement and application visit Job Listings at www.midwestcityok.org. Send resumes, salary history and applications to City of Midwest City, City Manager's Office, 100 N. Midwest Blvd., Midwest City, OK 73110. **Deadline Jan. 15.** EOE.

CEO—Central Arkansas Water, the largest public drinking water system in the state, seeks a strong, energetic, optimistic and highly competent leader to be CEO. The high-profile pos. is a key player in the development/mgmt. of a quality water supply for the metropolitan area. Qualifications: excellent communication, negotiation skills; technical competency, understanding of the business; familiarity with CAW facilities, operations, history; public speaking skills; reputation for honesty, integrity; Bachelor's degree, MBA or MPA preferred; 10-plus yrs. progressively responsible exp. in water utility industry; 5 yrs. of exec./sr. level exp.; possess the Arkansas Water Treatment and Water Dist. Grade 4 licenses or equiv. from another state. Pos. open until filled. For consideration, submit statement of interest, resumé and current sal. to G. Chris Hartung, Walters-Odani Executive Recruitment, 5050 Quorum Drive, Suite 625, Dallas, TX 75254. For more info., visit www.watersconsulting.com; e-mail search@watersconsulting.com. EOE.

CITY ENGINEER—Jacksonville is accepting applications for city engineer. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in engineering; 3 yrs. exp. in civil engineering and 5 yrs. supervisory exp.; plan, design and direct city engineering projects; valid Ark. DL. Candidate hired must live in Jacksonville. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, #1 Municipal Drive, or online at www.cityofjacksonville.net. Resumé may accompany application. Sal. DOE. EOE.

CIVIL ENGINEER—Siloam Springs seeks apps. for civil eng. Oversees eng. design, permitting private and public projects, reviews development proposals and capital improvement projects. Knowledge of eng. principles incl. design, surveying, analysis, construction inspection, project eng. and mgmt., and contract admin. Computer proficiency req. BS in civil eng. and 2 yrs. exp. in a gov't. setting pref. Must have Ark. DL or ability to obtain, Ark. reg. as a pro. eng. in civil eng. or ability to obtain within 3 mths. Benefit pkg. incl. medical, dental, vision, LTD, life insurance, 457 Deferred Comp., vac. and sick leave. Apps. at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; www.siloam-springs.com; pwoody@siloamsprings.com; or call 479-524-5136. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—Pine Bluff seeks individual with strong leadership skills for the pos. of finance director. Ideal cand. must have comprehensive background in finance, mgmt. exp. and excellent interpersonal/communication skills. The finance director reports to the mayor, acts as city CFO, resp. for planning/managing all aspects of the city's financial activities (\$30 million+ annual budget). Sal. \$60-72,000 DOE. Benefits incl. medical, dental, life ins., paid vac., sick leave, ret. and deferred comp. plan. B.S. in Accounting, Finance or Business with emphasis in Accounting. Master's, CPA or CPFO with working knowledge of technology systems pref. Applications accepted at City of Pine Bluff HR Dept., 200 E. 8th Ave., Room 104, Pine Bluff, AR 71601; fax 870-850-2449; or e-mail vconaway@cablelynx.com. Open until filled.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR—Jacksonville is accepting applications for the position of Director of Human Resources. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in public admin. or HR; SPHR or PHR and/or IMPA-CP or IPMA-CS certification; at least 5 to 7 yrs. exp. in HR field; must have supervisory exp. Benefits pkg. includes 457 plan; med., dental and vision coverage; tuition reimbursement program; mandatory contribution into APERS state retirement system; and edu. incentive. Candidate hired must live in Jacksonville. Submit resumé and a city application to City Hall, ATTN: Human Resources, #1 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville, AR 722076. Applications may be obtained from city hall or online at www.cityofjacksonville.net. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST—Jacksonville is accepting applications for the pos. of human resources generalist. Qualifications: assoc. degree in HR or related field, valid DL, knowledge of law and regs. affecting HR functions, at least 3 yrs. related exp. Ensures policies, procedures and reporting are in compliance. Applications available at Jacksonville City Hall, HR dept., #1 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville, AR 72076; or online at www.cityofjacksonville.net. Resumes accepted with application. EOE.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MGR.—Pine Bluff seeks applicants for the position of information systems mgr. Resp. for planning, developing, implementing and evaluating cost-effective, state-of-the-art information tech. services. Dept. administers network ops., GIS communications, website mgmt., records/imaging systems and several dept. specific software applications. Mgr. will guide the development of information systems, coordinate interdepartmental activities to increase employee productivity using tech. Bachelor's deg. in IT, Computer Sci., Public Admin., Business Admin., Business/Econ., and/or 5 yrs. IT mgmt. exp. or equiv. comb. preferred. Applications accepted at City of Pine Bluff HR Dept., 200 E. 8th, Room 104, Pine Bluff, AR 71601; fax 870-850-2449; or e-mail vconaway@cablelynx.com. Open until filled.

MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR—Stuttgart seeks a mosquito control director. Administration, supervision and coordination of daily operations of mosquito control dept. Must possess working knowledge of vehicle and small engine repair/maint.; ability to administer mosquito abatement program; direct field personnel; knowledge of rice growing practices and ecology of area. HS diploma, valid Ark. DL and clean driving record required. Salary DOE. Good benefits. Applications taken from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Jan. 22 at the personnel office, 514 South Main, Stuttgart. Open until filled.

PARKS DEVELOPMENT MGR.—Conway is accepting resumes for a parks development mgr., reporting to the parks and rec. dir. The mgr. plans, directs and coordinates maintenance/development projects at City of Conway parks and rec. facilities. Also resp. for special events set up, staffing and clean up. Bachelor's in parks admin. or related, 4 yrs. exp. in park admin. or related and 2 yrs. supervisory exp. required. Equiv. combinations of edu. and exp. considered. Submit resumé with salary history to H.R. Director, City of Conway, 1201 Oak St., Conway, AR 72032; e-mail lisa.williams@cityofconway.org; or fax 501-513-3503. Min. starting sal. \$42,000, based on exp. Resumes accepted until pos. filled. EOE.

PATROL OFFICER—Kensett seeks cert. patrol officers. For more info., call 501-742-5454.

POLICE CHIEF—Coal Hill (Johnson County) is accepting applications for police chief; must be certified. Send resumes to: Deborah Marvel Mayor, P.O. Box 218, Coal Hill, AR 72832.

POLICE CHIEF—Hermitage (Bradley County) is taking resumes for the police chief position; must be certified. Housing, paid med. ins., 15 vacation days; 11 paid holidays. Send resume to Mayor Joyce Copeland, P.O. Box 120 Hermitage, AR 71647. Phone, 870-483-2209.

POLICE OFFICER—Lewisville seeks applications for the position of police officer. Pick application packages up 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F at Lewisville City Hall, 330 West 1st St. Position open until filled. Contact Chief Jason Tomlin for information, 870-921-4971.

POLICE OFFICER—Allport (Lonoke County) seeks a full-time officer. Mail resumé and cert. to: Allport Police Dept, P.O. Box 58, Humnoke, AR 72072.

POLICE OFFICERS, CERTIFIED—Forrest City Police Dept. seeks cert. officers. Good sal., benefits inc. paid holiday, health, dental, eye insurance, retirement, 3 wks. paid vac. and LOPFI. Call 870-633-3434 for more info. or send resumé and copies of cert. to Chief's Office, c/o Forrest City Police Dept., 225 N. Rosser St., Forrest City, AR 72335. EOE.

POLICE OFFICERS, CERTIFIED—The Texarkana, Ark., Police Dept. is accepting applications for the position of a probationary police officer. First year annual salary is \$33,017.59. After 1 year, salary increases to \$36,053.00 (+). Benefits incl. ins., vacation, sick leave, certificate pay, educational pay and longevity pay. Uniforms and equipment furnished. Min. req.: (1) Cert. Law Enforcement Officer by CLEST or Cert. Law Enforcement Officer with any state that has a reciprocal agreement with CLEST, (2) 30 hours of college or able to obtain the hours within 18 months, (3) meet all other min. req. of Texarkana, Ark., Police Dept. For further information, contact the Personnel and Training Office @ 903-798-3328 or tateson@txkusa.org.

POLICE OFFICER—Marshall in Searcy County seeks applications for cert. police officer. Sal. neg. Contact Mayor Busbee or Chief Aubrey Byerly, 870-448-2543. Open until filled.

POLICE OFFICER—Ash Flat Police Dept. is accepting applications for full- and part-time police officers. Cert. officers preferred. Applications can be picked up from City Hall between 8 and 4 p.m. M-F. Only serious applicants should apply. No phone calls.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN—Haskell is accepting applications for a public works foreman. Performs supervisory, admin. and operational duties; inspects residential, commercial bldgs. for compliance; operates, repairs and maintains city water/sewer systems; operates backhoe, trackhoe; prepares, analyzes reports, records. Ark. DL, Ark. Class 1 wastewater and Class 1 water license req. Sal. based on exp., with paid vac., sick leave, holidays and ret. Send resume, work history, references to City of Haskell, Public Works Director, 2520 Hwy. 229, Haskell, AR 72015.

STREET DEPT. DIRECTOR—Pine Bluff seeks applicants for the position of Street Dept. director. The director oversees and reviews plans and specs. for public works projects, assists in projecting a plan of public works projects and improvements, and administers and coordinates all capital improvement projects with other city depts., utilities and outside contractors. The director gives tech., engineering and architectural advice to city depts. as directed by the mayor; performs and coordinates the investigation, development, design and construction of eng. projects; and supervises operation, maintenance of all dept. equip. Bachelor's deg. in Civil Engineering and/or five yrs. exp. in engineering work (2 yrs. of which in mgr./supervisory capacity) preferred. Should have knowledge of federal flood plain mgmt. and state/local regulations. Applications accepted at City of Pine Bluff HR Dept., 200 E. 8th, Room 104, Pine Bluff, AR 71601; fax 870-850-2449; or e-mail vconaway@cablelynx.com. Open until filled.

STREET DEPT. DIRECTOR—Stuttgart seeks a street dept. director. Works under direct supervision of mayor. Oversees all street repair projects, drainage problems and products, handles complaints and inquiries. Must have basic knowledge of equipment used, be able to meet with and communicate with public, read blue prints and work with city engineer. Director plans and schedules crew work. Must have HS diploma and valid Ark. DL with clean record. Salary DOE. Good benefits. Applications taken from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Jan. 22 at the personnel office, 514 South Main St., Stuttgart. Open until filled.

UNIVERSITY CHIEF OF POLICE—Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, seeks a chief of police to supervise university police staff. Qualifications: experience in law enforcement, current certification or ability to recertify, university law enforcement exp. pref., bachelor's degree, oral/written communication skills. Submit letter of application, resumé, 3 refs. to Office of Human Resources, Southern Arkansas University, P.O. Box 9288, Magnolia, AR 71754-9288. AA/EOE.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR—Marshall (Searcy County) seeks a water/wastewater operator with Class II license. Salary neg., DOQ, exp. Contact Mayor James Busbee, 870-448-2543 or 870-448-7506 or P.O. Box 1420, Marshall, AR 72650; FAX, 870-448-5692.

FOR SALE—Elite K-9 transport system. Black, easy to clean, eliminates oxide buildup on dog's fur. Fits 1998-04 Ford Crown Victoria. Call Chief Armstrong, Bull Shoals Police Dept., 870-445-4775.

FOR SALE—DVX Plus III digital phone system. 24-port board, 20 executive speakerphones, 2 48-button DSS consoles, talkpath voicemail. Call Annette at Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility, 870-535-6603.

FOR SALE—Police Car. 2000 Crown Victoria police interceptor, unmarked gray, 121K miles, runs good. Asking \$3,500. Call Friendship Police Chief Jim Elliott at 501-384-2111 for further information.

PUMPER TRUCKS—Plumerville Fire Dept. selling 1973 Ford F700, 750 GPM and '79 Ford, 1000 GPM. Equip. neg. Call 501-354-3936 or 354-4353.

STREET SWEEPER—Paris is selling 1988 Elgin Crosswind Street Sweeper. Contact Street Supt., 479-963-2450.

WANTED—Slightly used 20-cubic-yard, rear-load, trash compactor truck. Must be low hours. Contact Paris Street Supt. at 479-963-2450.

WANTED—New or slightly used gravity belt press combo. Call Green Forest Wastewater Treatment Plant, 870-438-5246.

WATER AERATOR—96 model. 2,000 GPM forced draft, 6,075 CFM blower, 22"x9"x9", 8,800 lbs. Contact Wynne Water Utilities, 870-238-2751.

Washington County Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds \$109,380,000	Saline County Jail Construction Capital Improvement Bonds \$8,500,000	Harrison School District #1 Limited General Obligation Refunding \$5,255,000	City of Fayetteville Hwy 71 East Square Project \$3,725,000	City of Tucker Water & Sewer Refunding & Construction \$1,700,000
City of Little Rock Capital Improvement Bonds \$70,635,000	Fort Smith School District Construction Bonds \$8,000,000	City of Pocahontas Water & Sewer Construction Bonds \$4,635,000	City of Little Rock Hilton Little Rock Metro Center Project \$3,135,000	City of Hazen Water & Sewer System Improvement \$1,615,000
Arkansas State University Board of Trustees Housing System Revenue Bonds \$34,000,000	Blytheville School District Construction Bonds \$7,925,000	City of Ward Water & Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds \$4,360,000	Ozark School District #14 Refunding Bonds \$2,849,933	City of Gravelly Sales & Use Tax \$1,600,000
Conway Public Facilities Board University of Central Arkansas Foundation Project \$13,050,000	Saline County Regional Solid Waste Management District Project \$7,840,000	City of Shannon Hills Water & Sewer Revenue Construction Bonds \$4,250,000	City of Jacksonville Library Construction & Improvement Bonds \$2,500,000	White White \$2,000,000
Northwest Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District Waste Disposal Refunding & Construction \$12,340,000	City of Decatur Water & Sewer Refunding & Construction Project \$7,715,000	City of Barling Water & Sewer Revenue & Refunding Bonds \$4,195,000	Wynne School District #9 Construction Bonds \$2,296,361	
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