

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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ON THE COVER—The clocks have all been turned back, there’s finally a slight chill in the air, and the year is winding down. But we’re busy gearing up for the 2017 Winter Conference, Jan. 11-13 in Little Rock, and we can’t wait to see you there. Check inside this issue for registration and hotel information and to see a tentative schedule. Read also inside about our 2016-2017 League District 3 vice president, the League’s recent delegation to Ghana, Arkadelphia’s storm drain awareness initiative, and much more.—atm

Features

6 District 3 VP champions growing hometown
Fort Smith Vice Mayor Kevin Settle, the League’s 2016-2017 District 3 vice president, is enthused by every aspect of his beloved hometown, whether it’s the city’s diverse manufacturing base, expanding public art spaces, or ongoing street improvements.

10 League delegation to Ghana returns
A League delegation to Ghana led by Stephens Mayor and League President Harry Brown has returned from a productive visit with local leaders in the African nation, where they discussed ways the League and its Ghanaian counterpart organization can work together.

32 Arkadelphia raises storm drain awareness
Part beautification project and part educational initiative, Arkadelphia’s inaugural Storm Drain Awareness Week, held Oct. 17-21, raised awareness about the importance of keeping the city’s storm water drainage systems pollutant-free.

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Dear Friends:

As I sit and write this month's letter, I am thinking to myself, "Wow! October, what a month!" The end of the year will be upon us before we know it. Time does fly when you're having fun.

Speaking of fun, we completed the first of three rounds of regional meetings in October. Batesville, Lakeview/Mountain Home, Jonesboro, and Russellville were excellent host cities. Each of the meetings was informative and well attended. I was happy to take part in the Jonesboro and Russellville meetings. By the time you all receive this issue of *City & Town*, we will have completed the second round of regional meetings in Fort Smith/Mulberry, Marianna, Searcy, De Queen, and Springdale. The regional meeting concept has been well received and I thank all of the great cities for hosting these important meetings.



As I prepare for the trip to Ghana, West Africa, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in these United States. I think about all of the things we take for granted that others can only dream about today. During this trip to Ghana, we hope to establish a dialogue between local government and the citizens so the needs and concerns of the people can be voiced locally then communicated to the higher authorities, thereby giving the citizens a voice in their government.

We had great participation in our Human Resource and Personnel Matters certification workshop held at the League on October 12. For those who couldn't attend, you can find the archived PDF on the League's website, www.arml.org, on the "Resources" page. The Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) seminar held October 28 at League headquarters was also very well attended. There was good discussion on 2017 program changes and the seminar attendees took advantage of the numerous opportunities to pose questions regarding the plan.

Don't forget to register for the 2017 Winter Conference. As noted on the cover, registration details are inside this issue. The Winter Conference is going to be a great one and will provide an excellent opportunity for municipal officials and personnel to interact with all the legislators across Arkansas. You don't want to miss this meeting.

Speaking of this issue, did you like your personalized cover? I always get a kick out of receiving mine each year. We all know that the end of each year seems to fly by faster than the last. Remember to be thankful for all that we have and enjoy in this great state of ours. God bless each of you, each city, and the great state of Arkansas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Harry Brown', written over a horizontal line.

Harry Brown
Mayor, Stephens
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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League District 3 VP works to keep Fort Smith growing

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

You'd be hard pressed to find a bigger champion of his hometown than Fort Smith City Director, Vice Mayor, and League 2016-2017 District 3 Vice President Kevin Settle. Whether it's a downtown mural and public art project or storm-water and sewer issues, he talks about the city with the same enthusiasm.

"I love Fort Smith," Settle says. "Anybody who knows me knows I can tell you anything you want to know about Fort Smith. I will talk for days about what's going on in Fort Smith."

Settle was born and raised in Fort Smith, the state's second largest city. In fact he lived about a mile and a half away from where he now works, at Exide Technologies.

He graduated from Fort Smith's Southside High School in 1992 not really knowing what career he wanted to pursue. He just knew he enjoyed math and science, and he'd heard that studying chemical engineering would open up options for him. So he attended Westark Community College—now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith—and received his associate's degree, then headed to Fayetteville, where he achieved his B.S. in Chemical Engineering in just two more years of study.

In addition to pursuing his degree, Settle also managed to work several jobs through school, including in what they once called the "candy department" at Walmart. This was before the Supercenters came along that included full-service groceries, he says. Back then it was just a few aisles of snacks and sodas. It was during this time, also, that, through a mutual friend, he met his wife, Terri, who is also a Fort Smith native. They have two daughters, Katie and Rachel.

With his degree in hand, Settle accepted a job at Southern Cotton Oil in North Little Rock. It was a good experience, but he and Terri missed their hometown. When in 1998 a process engineer position opened up at Exide in Fort Smith, he took it, and he's built his career there since then. In 2001 he became engineering manager, and, as of mid October, Settle has been acting plant manager.



Fort Smith City Director and League 2016-2017 District 3 Vice President Kevin Settle is acting plant manager at Exide Technologies, which makes industrial batteries and is part of a diverse manufacturing scene in the city.

Exide makes industrial batteries for companies such as Walmart, Kroger, AT&T, Verizon, and Union Pacific.

"It's fun," he says. "It's a great company and we're doing some good things."

Earlier this year Exide announced Project Neptune, a large contract with the U.S. Navy. Settle, in addition to his managerial duties, has been named project lead for this contract.

"In the middle of America, we're producing batteries for United States Navy submarines. It's a pride thing. We're all very excited."

The contract also means Exide will be expanding their facility.

When Settle was able to return to Fort Smith in 1998 to build his career, it also meant he could pursue his longtime goal of serving its citizens. His desire to participate in improving his hometown started back in high school, he says.



The Windgate Art & Design Building, which opened in 2015, is one of the newest expansions at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

“I knew back then that I wanted to do something to make my city better, wherever I landed. And I really wanted to be in Fort Smith.”

Once he and his family had properly settled in, Settle reached out to former longtime Mayor Ray Baker to inquire what it took to run for the city’s board of directors. He threw his name in the hat in 2004. He lost, which inspired him to put his engineering skills to work on it, to figure out what he did wrong and how to better approach the next campaign.

“I spent the next two years attending every board meeting to understand the city as a whole, what made it tick.”

He tried again in 2006, won, and took office in 2007. He’s now in his third four-year term, and for six years he’s been vice mayor.

One of Settle’s main goals as a city leader has been to recruit industry in Fort Smith and to retain existing businesses and jobs. Though the city has experienced some high-profile plant closings over the years, that doesn’t paint an accurate picture of the city’s growth, Settle says. Fort Smith is the state’s manufacturing capital.

“We are the manufacturing hub of our state. And we’re so diverse. You can have steel, spirits, dog food, baby food, paper plates, industrial batteries, electric motors, air conditioners, handguns, air guns, cardboard boxes—we do it all.”

There are great jobs in Fort Smith, Settle says, and the city has steadily experienced growth at a rate of about three percent a year.

Another contributor to that growth is the availability of higher education in Fort Smith. Since becoming part of the University of Arkansas system in 2002, UAFS has grown both in size and in student population, with enrollment now approaching 7,000. And the school has

recently added to its offerings a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration.

In related news, the new Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine is scheduled to open in 2017. It is another important educational and medical development for the city. The school is part of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education network.

“They’ve already got 2,000 applications for 150 student slots. And it’s a game changer. I really believe that.”

The college is located in the Chaffee Crossing area, which is itself one of the more exciting additions to Fort Smith’s economy in the last two decades. Chaffee Crossing is a broad development of recreational, residential, and business growth on 7,000 acres of land that was once part of Fort Chaffee. It has seen more than \$1 billion so far in capital investments since its beginnings in 2000. One of the largest projects is the soon-to-be-completed, \$40 million corporate headquarters of ArcBest, the Fort Smith-based transportation and logistics company.



A six-mile stretch of I-49 is complete on the south side of Fort Smith near Chaffee Crossing. It will eventually cross the entire state from Northwest Arkansas to Texarkana.



The Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine is expected to be a game changer when it opens next year.

The city features numerous parks and recreational facilities, the largest of which is Ben Geren Regional Park, a more than 1,000-acre park on the city's south side featuring ball fields, playgrounds, a golf course, and more. The park is owned by Sebastian County, but it's an example of the county and city working together to provide great amenities for residents. That cooperation is evident in the recently opened Parrot Island Water Park, a 50-50 partnership between the city and county. It's the only municipally-owned water park that features a wave pool, Settle says.

While much of the city's growth has expanded southward, Fort Smith's historic downtown area has continued to thrive in recent years. It is lined with restaurants and businesses, and the Fort Smith National Historic Site, which tells the story of the city's role in America's western expansion, continues to draw visitors from across the country and the world. Downtown stretches right to the Arkansas River, and the park there features an amphitheater, meeting space, and other facilities. It will also be home to the U.S. Marshals Museum, which recently announced an opening date of September 24, 2019.

On the day of this interview, Fort Smith officials cut the ribbon on the city's newest riverfront amenity, an almost two-mile trail made possible by a \$1 million grant from the Walton Foundation and a \$1 million match from the city. The paved path along the Arkansas River features lighting, landscaping, sculptures, a pavilion, and benches. The trail wouldn't be possible, Settle says, but for the forward thinking of previous city leaders.

"It's because years ago the board put in the amphitheater. And so now you've got the amphitheater, the trail, and downtown, and you start putting those pieces together, and it just becomes a vibrant downtown area."

Supporting all of that, Settle says, is a solid foundation on which the city can continue to grow in a sustainable way. The city has a reliable, long-term water supply at Lake Fort Smith; an ongoing one-cent sales tax passed by voters dedicated to city streets; and a city-owned landfill with 60 years left on its capacity, more if the city increases recycling.

"Those are all great things about our city. And the board works really well together to make the right decisions." 🏛️



Nonprofit foundation 64/6 was established in 2015 to create more public art spaces in the city with a series of sculptures and murals, some of which allude artistically to Fort Smith's gateway-to-the-west history.



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The Cape Coast Castle was one of many forts built along Africa's western coast for trade of goods but later used in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.



League delegation returns from Ghana

By Sherman Banks

Stephens Mayor Harry Brown, president of the Arkansas Municipal League, led a delegation to Ghana during the week of October 23-30 for the purpose of plotting a process by which the League and the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) may work to implement the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was signed in October of 2015.

The three days of talks were led by Mayor Brown and Mayor Isaac Ashai Odamtten of Tema Metropolitan Assembly and President of NALAG. League Director of Operations Ken Wasson gave a complete overview of how the League functions and how the League can help

to further the purpose of the MOU. It was resolved that the bilateral relations between the organizations should be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of its members.

The immediate collaboration of the MOU will work to develop agreements and programs in three specific areas:

- Local economic development
- Citizen participation and training
- Capacity building

The League will help facilitate the performance of Ghanaian municipalities' education, health, and special critical services for the citizens of the communities in



PHOTOS BY PRINCE JIM-AGAMA, PRINTGARAGE PHOTOGRAPHY.



Brown addresses local leaders at Asunafo North Municipality.

Ghana. The League further agreed to encourage its membership to develop future sister city relationships with NALAG’s members that will lead toward cultural, educational, and economic growth.

To effectively manage these cooperative efforts, the parties agreed to:

- Provide representatives from both the League and NALAG for the coordination of all activities of the MOU with understood modifications;
- Facilitate sister city relations by requiring information and data; and
- Provide a forum for an annual review of the MOU and its modifications.

The agreement was signed by the Honorable Isaac Ashai Odamtten, president of NALAG, and the Honorable Harry Brown, president of League, on Saturday, October 29, 2016, and witnessed by Prince Kwame Kludjeson, Ghana facilitator.



Batesville’s Matthews, left, shakes hands with Asunafo North Mayor Doku on the occasion of the two cities’ sister city agreement.

While in Ghana, the delegation traveled to the north of the country, to the Asunafo North Municipality, to review the 2015 MOU to establish a sister city relationship between Batesville and the city. Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh was unable to join the delegation on this trip, but Alderman Douglas Matthews was present to join Asunafo North Mayor Alhaji Mohammed Kwaku Doku in signing the formal agreement on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Leading up to the signing, a formal presentation was presented by the Asunafo North Municipality that



The memorial to Ghana’s first president, Kwame Nkrumah, at Accra.

included a marching band, representatives from the military with a pass and review, traditional dancers, a salute by the local traditional rulers with Paramount King of the Region, and speeches made by all the recognized dignitaries of protocol.

As new sister cities, they have agreed to:

- Develop educational exchanges between primary, secondary, and university students/faculty, and work to equip the libraries in the school system of Asunafo North with text and reference books;
- Establish an in-service exchange between elected and municipal officials;
- Work toward a process by which we can develop and market sustainable agriculture for export/ import;
- Develop a reciprocal tourism package; and
- Develop a partnership in addressing public health and safety.

As we continue to embrace our diverse cultures and experiences through relationships with NALAG and Ghana, it is important that we can have such a positive effect to bridging the gap. This will put Arkansas in the forefront of change, “one individual, one community at a time.”



For more information contact Sherman Banks at (501) 786-2639; email sbanks@aristotle.net; or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

League continuing ed program covers HR issues

As part of the Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program for municipal officials, the League hosted a workshop covering human resource and personnel matters on Oct. 12. The course offered five hours of core curriculum for the 112 participants from cities and towns across the state, who covered topics such as human resources challenges, protecting data, employment law, succession planning, and more.



ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2016-2017 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The voluntary certification plan is, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 credit hours of topics.

For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must annually obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending the hours of continuing education offered at the 2017 Winter Conference, the 83rd Annual Convention, or the 2017 Planning & Zoning Workshop.

The Program is for Arkansas mayors, city administrators, city managers, city directors and aldermen, city recorders, recorder/treasurers, city clerks, clerk/treasurers.

The next workshop at League Headquarters is:

- Planning & Zoning Workshop (5 continuing hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 19, 2017, at League headquarters.

For more information contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, or email kwasson@arml.org.

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Educational tree resources for all ages

By Alison Litchy

What would our world be like without trees? Biologists believe that without trees the evolution of man might not have taken place. Without trees humanity would not exist. As powerful as that statement seems, it is true, and we're far from the only species that it holds true for based on research.

Even today, though tropical rainforests are less than six percent of the earth's land surface, they sustain more than half of the biological species on the planet. In our daily lives trees provide building materials, fuel, sap, food, rubber, alcohol, coal, and paper. That list barely scratches the surface of the value of trees.

Trees slow down runoff by holding or absorbing water, which reduces flooding. They provide shelter for people, animals, and plants; protect the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide; provide certain habitats and stabilize conditions necessary to sustain life; and they are beautiful! Our entire environment would be a very different place without trees.

In a more local sense, trees play a vital role in our urban spaces. They reduce stormwater runoff, filter air, cool temperatures, provide wildlife habitat, and more. It isn't enough that we know these facts, it is vitally important we teach our youth these values so that future generations conserve trees. There are many online educational opportunities for youth. I will just touch on a few of them.

This October the Arkansas Forestry Commission planted trees in playgrounds across the state as part of our Shade Trees On Playgrounds (S.T.O.P.) program. The program teaches kids how to plant trees and the importance of trees. It teaches about the dangers of skin cancer and encourages safety precautions against sun exposure by playing under trees.

Another excellent youth educational opportunity is known as Carly's Kids Corner, provided by the Arbor Day Foundation. This program features a series of games that kids can play to learn facts about trees. One of the games is "Who wants to be a Treellionaire?" This asks a series of 12 questions for youths to puzzle through. If they get it wrong it will tell the contestant the correct answer. Just like the television show, there are lifelines you can use to help get the answers. Another game is



PHOTO BY ALISON LITCHY.

Dierks elementary students recently planted trees as part of an effort to teach children about the importance of trees and our urban forests.

"Treevial Pursuit." Players spin a spinner and get one from each of four categories correct to win. This one is great because there are two levels, and two players can play. Just take some time and explore the site, www.arborday.org/kids/carly.

The U.S. Forest Service offers educational opportunities for elementary through high school students via materials available online at www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/982. The urban forestry lab exercises found there have great ideas for in-class learning projects. For example, the "How Fast Does This Tree Grow" exercise shows how to measure the growth rate of specific trees. "What's Happening Below the Surface?" focuses on root systems. Education on some of these topics is vital for the health of our urban forests in the long term.

For adults who would like to learn more, eLearn Urban Forestry is a great interactive online introduction to urban forestry management. It features 10 sections that are broken down into several chapters each, which are then broken down into convenient learning sections. It covers the main topics dealing with urban forestry. It's a great program that can be completed as time permits. eLearn can be found at urban.elearn.sref.info.

We all know kids are our future, and urban trees are also our future. While this article highlights some great resources, there are many others, including on the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Community Forestry section on our website, forestry.arkansas.gov.



Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at 501-984-5867 or email alison.litchy@arkansas.gov.



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TENTATIVE 2017 Winter Conference

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 11

1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION Osage and Caddo, SCC

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

VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES Governor's Hall I-II, SCC

Governmental agencies have been invited to exhibit in Halls I and II. Drop by during the breaks and exhibit hall hours to visit with them about services their agencies might offer to your municipality.

2:00 P.M.

MLWCT BOARD MEETING Manning Room

3:00 p.m

MHBF BOARD MEETING Manning Room

3:00 – 6:30 P.M.

CITY GOVERNMENT 101 Governor's Hall IV, SCC

(This session is a core class in which you will receive 3.5 hours of certification credit. Break will be included.)

7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

OPENING NIGHT BANQUET Wally Allen Ballroom

Legislators and constitutional officers will be invited to attend. Municipal officials that have obtained their "Certified Municipal Official" status and "Continuing Certified Municipal Official" status will be recognized.

8:30 P.M.

POST BANQUET RECEPTION TBA

THURSDAY AM - JANUARY 12

7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION Osage, SCC

7:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST Governor's Hall I-II, SCC

7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES Governor's Hall I-II, SCC

Governmental agencies have been invited to exhibit in Halls I and II. Drop by during the breaks and exhibit hall hours to visit with them about services their agencies might offer to your municipality.

7:15 – 7:45 A.M.

VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION Fulton Room

A time to gather and pray for those who lead our nation, state and municipalities.

8:45 – 10:00 A.M.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION Governor's Hall IV, SCC

The Winter Conference officially begins with the Presentation of Colors and the singing of the National Anthem.

10:00 – 10:30 A.M.

BREAK Governor's Hall I-II, SCC

10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

GENERAL SESSION II: THE 91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY- WHAT WE CAN EXPECT Governor's Hall IV, SCC

11:30 A.M. – NOON

GENERAL SESSION III: COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR Governor's Hall IV, SCC



THURSDAY PM - JANUARY 12

NOON

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON..... Wally Allen Ballroom

The 2016 Community of the Year Award winners will be recognized. The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas will be invited to present the awards.

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

GENERAL SESSION IVGovernor’s Hall IV, SCC

- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS UPDATES
- THE FUTURE OF ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

3:00 – 3:15 P.M.

BREAKGovernor’s Hall III, SCC

3:15 – 5:00 P.M.

SESSION 1: THE CONCLUSION OF CITY GOVERNMENT 101 Governor’s Hall III, SCC

(This session is a core class in which you will receive 1.5 hours of certification credit. This will conclude the 5 core hours needed for those who have not had City Gov. 101 certification.)

3:15 – 5:00 P.M.

SESSION 2: ARKANSAS TOURISM, THE INNOVATION HUB AND HOW LEADERSHIP IMPACTS YOUR JOB...Governor’s Hall IV, SCC

(City officials who don’t need City Government 101 core hours will attend this session.)

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:00 – 10:00 P.M.

CONFECTIONS, CORDIALS AND ENTERTAINMENTTBA

FRIDAY - JANUARY 13

7:00 A.M. – NOON

REGISTRATION Osage, SCC

7:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST Gov. Hall I-II, SCC

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION..... League Headquarters
(City Attorneys will meet for 6 CLE hours.)

8:45 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

GENERAL SESSION I: STEPS TO BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITYMarriott Grand Ballrooms B&C

(This session will count toward 1.5 hours of continuing education credit.)

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

BREAKAtrium of the Marriott Hotel

10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

GENERAL SESSION II: LEADING YOUR ORGANIZATION FROM GREAT TO AMAZINGMarriott Grand Ballrooms B&C

(This session will count toward 1.5 hours of continuing education credit.)

11:45 A.M. – NOON

CONCLUDING REMARKS.....Marriott Grand Ballrooms B&C
Presiding: Mayor Harry Brown, Stephens
President, Arkansas Municipal League

NOON

LUNCH BUFFET Marriott Grand Ballroom A
Before you head home, join us for a buffet in the Marriott Grand Ballroom A.

1:00 P.M.– 3:00 P.M.

MHBF SEMINAR ON 2017 PLAN CHANGESMarriott Grand Ballrooms B&C

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

ACCRTA MEETING Marriott Riverview Room

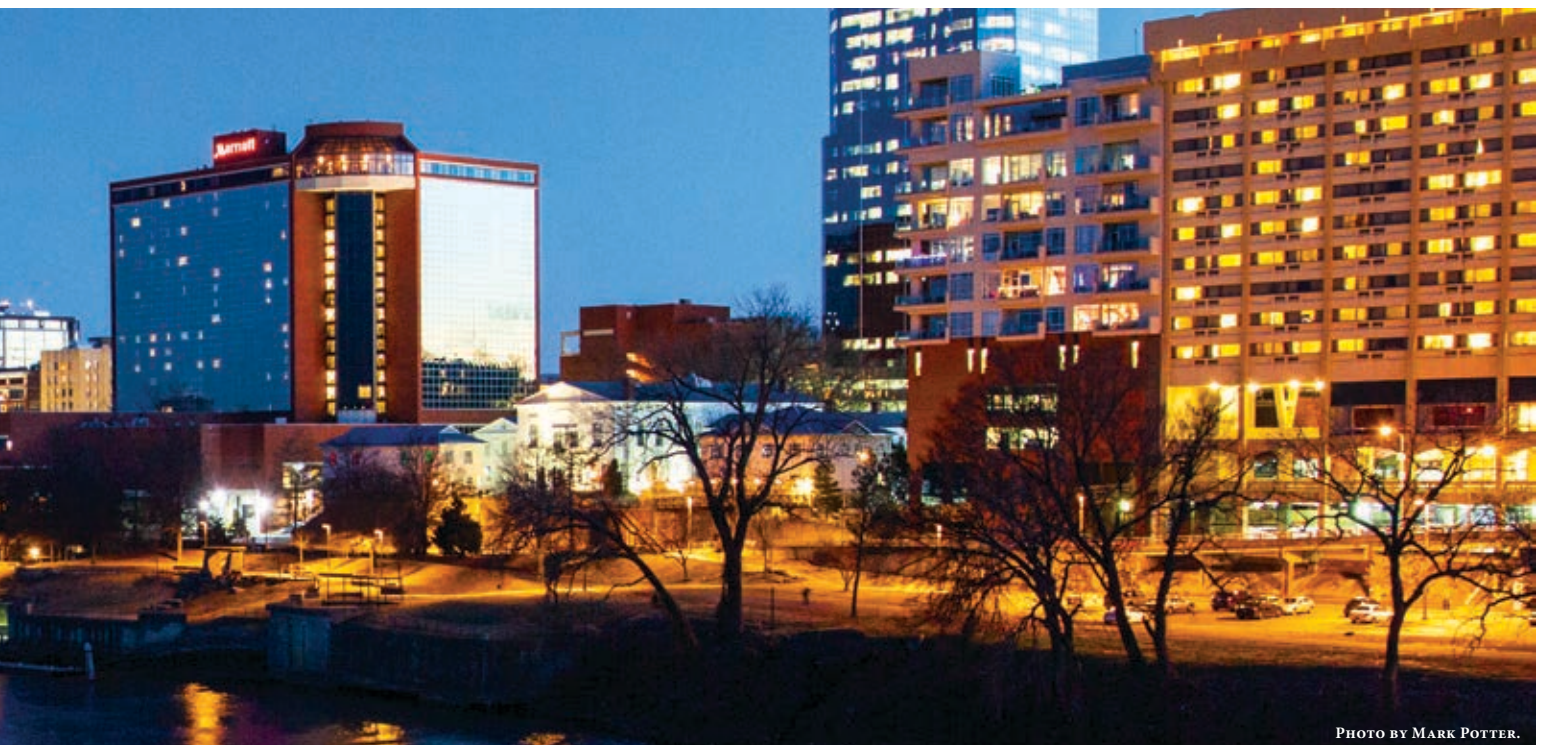


PHOTO BY MARK POTTER.



2017 Winter Conference

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, January 11-13, 2017

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 30, 2016, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after December 30, 2016 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after December 30, 2016 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2015-2016**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 30, 2016.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 30, 2016.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
SOLO OUT Single/Double	\$134	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
SOLO OUT Single/Double	\$189	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
SOLO OUT Single/Double	\$138	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$99	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 30, 2016**.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to an 13–15 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

Two ways to register ²

1 Register online at www.arml.org and pay by credit card.

OR

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
 Attn: 2017 Winter Conference
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Attendee Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name:

Title: City of:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

Attendee only email (required) cc email

Guests will attend: Yes No Name:

(non-city official) Name:

Step 2: Payment Information

• **What is your total?** (see opposite page for fees)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Delegate \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Guest \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Pre-registration Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Delegate \$ 175	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Guest \$ 100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Reg. Registration Total \$ _____

• **How are you paying?**

Check

Mail payment and form to:
 Arkansas Municipal League
 2017 Winter Conference
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/20____

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card):

Billing address (as it appears on statement):

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

E-mail address (required for credit card payment)

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

To obtain hotel reservations, registered delegates must directly contact participating hotels listed below. Please mention that you are with the Arkansas Municipal League to get the negotiated hotel rate.

Marriott Hotel..... Reservations.....877-759-6290

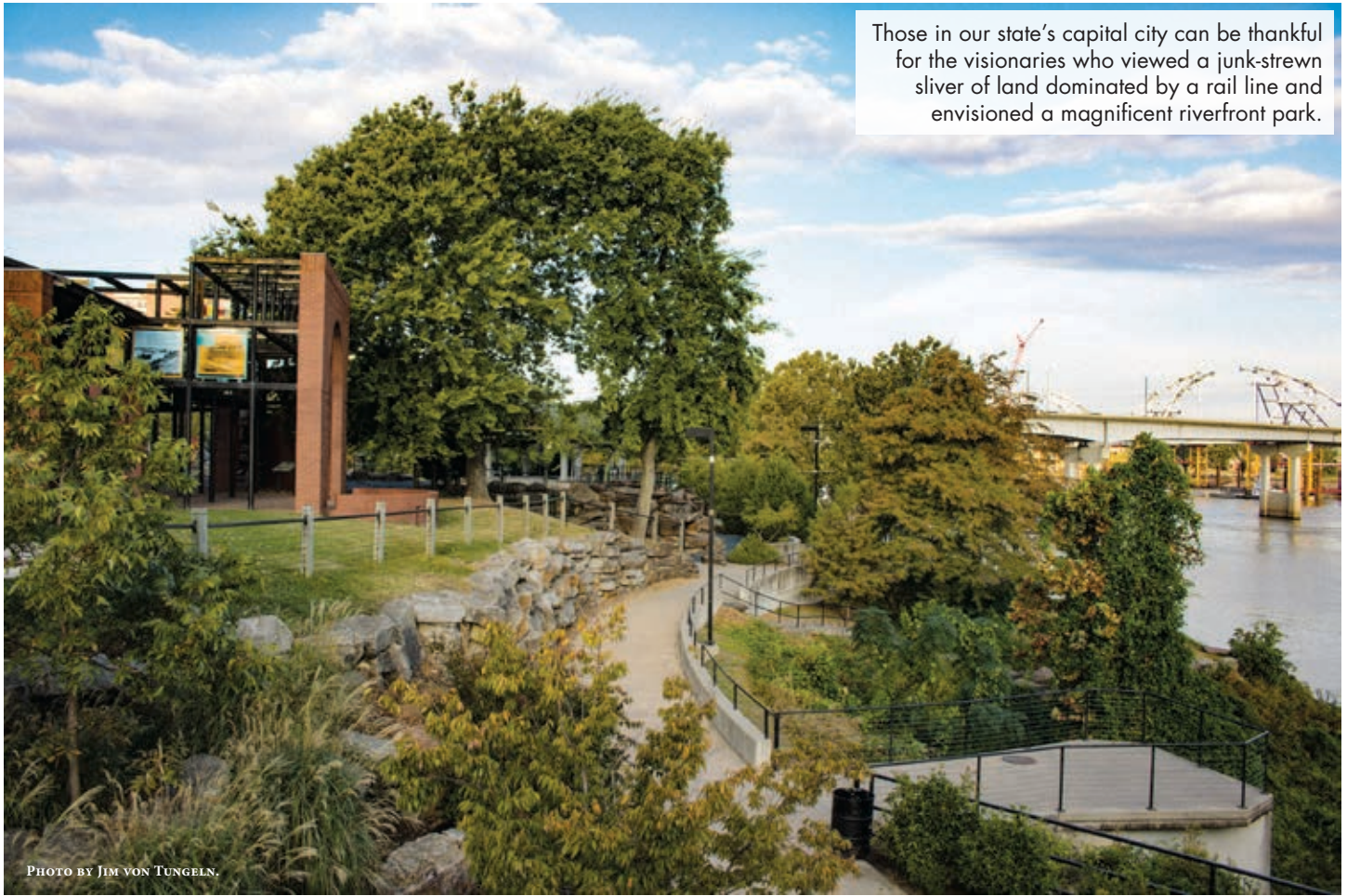
Capital Hotel..... Reservations.....877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474

Doubletree Hotel..... Reservations.....800-222-8733 or 501-372-4371

Wyndham Hotel...Reservations.....866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000

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- Pescatarian
- Vegan



Those in our state's capital city can be thankful for the visionaries who viewed a junk-strewn sliver of land dominated by a rail line and envisioned a magnificent riverfront park.

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN.

Giving thanks for planning

By Jim von Tungeln

Americans give thanks in November, thanks for many things. Perhaps urban and regional planning deserves some, as do the tools and soldiers who help bring it about. Thinking about the history and status of planning in our state brings a number of items to mind.

First, it is important to admit that the results of planning are not uniformly positive. One can only speculate on how our communities might have formed without it. Certainly, there are cities, the largest being Houston, Texas, that enjoy a reputation for no planning and its benefits—often by those who have never driven therein. And while it is true that the city has no zoning, land uses there are nonetheless controlled. It may come as a surprise to many that the city, thanks to a tailor-made law passed by the state legislature, enforces private covenants that control the use of land. In some ways, this practice proves more restrictive than zoning.

We have also seen tragic failures in planning and execution of plans. Perhaps the most dramatic instances appear in the classic work by Robert A. Caro,

The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York, a must-read for anyone interested in the recent history of urban development. It is arguably the best book written about urban planning in America, and a tragic recounting of the destruction of neighborhoods in favor of the automobile.

These warnings aside, there is scarcely a city in our state in which leaders can't point to a spot where planners averted disaster through forward thinking and careful management. Along with the ability to form planning commissions and create plans, our cities should be thankful for the tools, primarily zoning and subdivision codes, with which to carry out or protect the provisions of plans.

This brings us to our first level of thanksgiving: a nod to progressive leaders of the past who established the groundwork for planning. It begins with the genius of individuals like Fredrick Law Olmstead, who designed New York's Central Park, and Daniel H. Burnham, who directed the preparation of the Chicago Plan.

Next, we might thank the leader and the members of the advisory committee on zoning appointed by Secretary of Commerce (and later President) Herbert Hoover in 1921. This group saw the need for guidance and created standard enabling legislation to be used as guides for individual plans and zoning codes (www.planning.org/growingsmart/enablingacts.htm). Among its provisions was the advice, still governing cities today, that we first plan, after which we may regulate in order to carry out the plan.

Moving to the state level, we might offer thanks to leaders who saw the benefits that planning could bring to our state and who enacted the Hoover Commission's standard acts almost verbatim as a law. It survives, in somewhat altered form, as Act 186 of 1957.

While we are at it, we should be thankful for a judicial process that grants our cities the benefit of the doubt in enforcing plans. In recent years, cities have overcome legal challenges to planning and zoning unless plaintiffs were able to demonstrate that decisions derived from "arbitrary and capricious" thinking. The process also requires planning commissions to put careful thought into plan provisions to ensure that they do serve to protect the public welfare.

This in turn brings us to giving thanks for the Arkansas Municipal League. The leaders of the organization have chosen, year after year, to support planning and orderly growth in our state. The staff and officers monitor legislation that could affect the ability of cities to plan and regulate the growth of the state's cities. The legal staff stands by to help cities facing litigation associated with planning and its tools. The League annually participates in training workshops and informational presentations to keep local officials up to date on planning matters.

At the same time, the city attorneys around the state who have invested their time in understanding land use law deserve thanks. Some have become quite expert in this area. Their efforts and defenses have saved the cities of our state hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless disasters.

No piece on the contributions of Arkansans to planning should fail to mention those who carried the message and tools to every corner of our state in past years. Chief among these were the staff of the Division of Community Affairs at the University of Arkansas from the 1960s into the 1970s. Legendary planning figure Bill Bonner led a highly dedicated group of individuals in this effort. In "pre-freeway" Arkansas, it was common for the planners to leave northwest Arkansas in the early morning hours, motor to places like Smackover or Osceola, attend a planning commission meeting, and return, with no allowance for meals.

We must also recognize the contributions of visionaries in our state who have contributed mightily to the success of our cities. These include design professionals, engineers, builders, philanthropists, and developers. Their work, in many cases, has made our cities both more attractive and more livable. They are too numerous to mention individually, but almost any community can point to the positive results of individuals and groups who have left an impact on our communities.

We are fortunate in our state to have resources for city leaders who wish to support planning. The Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC) is a cooperative program of the University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Arkansas State University. It has been successfully delivering training to public and nonprofit managers since 1984. In partnership with the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), it offers both basic and advanced training for planning commissioners, elected officials, and others.

Additionally, APA welcomes membership by planning commissioners and staff who are not professional planners by education and experience. Membership includes conferences and communication with other lay planners as well as professional planners around the state. Some lay planners have become quite knowledgeable about their work, due in part to the association with fellow members.

Finally, the citizens of our state owe thanks to the elected municipal leaders who have supported planning throughout our modern history. That loyalty entails many challenges. As the old adage, beloved by judges, goes: "Planning is a topic about which reasonable people can and do differ." When voters express those differing opinions, elected officials can find themselves caught in the middle of a no-win situation. The fact that such an overwhelming majority of them continue their support is both gratifying and, at times, surprising.

Yes, planning provides a challenging path. A plan might be compared in some way with a surgeon's tool. It can be an instrument of either healing or of damage. The intent and skill level applied determines the outcome. And, of course, like some patients, there are some cities that have stayed healthy or healed themselves on their own. The question that each community leader must ask, though, is do we want to take that chance?



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Contact him at 501-944-3649. His website is www.planyourcity.com.

Arkansas Municipal League Fall Conference Scholarships Available

The executive committee of the Arkansas Municipal League (AML) voted in 2012 to award two (2) scholarships for registration to the AML Winter Conference. A scholarship will be awarded to one (1) Mayor or Alderman, and (1) City Clerk, Recorder or Treasurer, both of which will enable city officials the opportunity to further their educational training in municipal government.

The Arkansas City Clerk's, Recorders, and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) agreed to handle applications and the selection process.

Fill out the scholarship application below and return to:

Donna Stewart
City Clerk
City of Camden
P.O. Box 278
Camden, Arkansas 71711

For more information , please contact Donna Stewart at payroll.camden@cablelynx.com, or call 870-836-6436.

Winter 2017 APPLICATION FOR ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

I, _____, am a member of the Arkansas Municipal League, and do hereby apply for a registration assistance from AML. (Applicant's city or town must be a member of AML at the time of application).

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed current position _____

Other related experience:

Title	Municipality	Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

Please answer the following questions:

How does your municipality budget yearly for your education? _____

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

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used for registration at the AML Winter Conference to be held in January 11-13, 2017, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas and that I must attend all sessions.

Yes _____

If your attendance must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or legislative body of your city or town, will you be given time to attend the conference? Yes _____ No _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Deadline to apply is November 28, 2016.

DISCLAIMER:

ACCRTA or AML will not be responsible for applications that are not received by the deadline.

Please feel free to call to verify that your application has been received.

The push for e-fairness continues

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) continues to lobby Congress to pass legislation requiring online-only sellers to collect and remit state sales taxes and level the playing field for community-based-retailers.

There are currently multiple bills before Congress related to the issue:

- The Remote Transactions Parity Act (RTPA), introduced by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), grants states the authority to require remote sellers to collect sales taxes. It includes several provisions that will protect sellers, such as extensive audit protections and free sales tax collection software. RTPA also provides a transition period for small remote sellers.
- The Online Sales Simplification Act (OSSA), drafted by Rep. Robert Goodlatte (R-VA), requires companies to collect sales taxes on online purchases, at the rate charged in the consumers' state but based on the taxable base in the retailers' own home states.
- The No Regulation Without Representation Act of 2016, introduced by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) would maintain the status quo, and only allow retailers with a physical presence in a state to collect sales taxes.
- The Marketplace Fairness Act, introduced by Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) mirrors legislation that was passed with strong bipartisan support (69-27) in the Senate in 2013. It would allow those states that have signed up to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA) to require out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales taxes.

State legislatures, tired of Congressional inaction, have introduced 46 bills related to e-fairness in 20 states in 2016. Some require remote sellers to report the names and addresses of residents to purchasing more than \$500 worth of goods in the previous calendar year, while others (Alabama, Tennessee, South Dakota) require

remote sellers to collect and remit the sales tax. The latter has sparked two lawsuits claiming the measure violates the 1992 Supreme Court decision (*Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*) where the court ruled that a state may require only a business with a physical presence in that particular state to collect sales tax.

“Our members have waited for more than two decades for Congress to take action,” said Jennifer Platt, ICSC’s vice president of federal operations. “Meanwhile, multiple states are moving forward with various state laws and litigation, creating marketplace chaos. It’s time for Congress to solve this problem for all retailers and support local businesses by giving them a fair chance to compete.”

As Congress leaves Washington, DC to campaign for re-election, we urge them to resolve this issue this year.

This article was published originally by the ICSC on their site thecenterofshopping.com on October 6 and is reprinted with permission.



LRFD academy spreads fire-fighting knowledge

The Little Rock Fire Department invited city residents to get a first-hand look at its operations during this year's Citizen's Fire Academy, a free, eight-week course. Through classroom instruction, hands-on participation, and live demonstrations, the academy provided participants with knowledge of the core functions of the fire department during the series of weekly classes running from August through October. This year's academy drew 23 participants who covered a range of fire-fighting and first responder topics such as fire prevention, arson investigation, apparatus and truck familiarization, bomb squad investigative tools, and more. The academy also offered participants the opportunity to become certified in CPR. 🏠



MHBF seminar updates cities on program changes



The League hosted a full house of participants at its annual Municipal Health Benefit Fund Seminar, held Oct. 28 at its North Little Rock headquarters. The 109 in attendance covered the MHBF plan changes for 2017, prescription drug benefit changes, updates on ACA reporting requirements, flexible spending accounts, and more. 🏠



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a different opinion



NRPA conference and expo features latest and greatest in parks and rec

By Rick Elumbaugh

The Annual National Recreation and Parks Conference is always a great experience, and 2016's conference in St. Louis was no different. The conference always offers a wide variety of educational sessions that vary in offerings from:

- Leadership and best management practices
- Programming
 - Youth
 - Seniors
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Inclusive programming for diverse populations
- Aquatics programming and aquatics facility management
- Sustainable park design and maintenance
- Revenue generation and budget management

In addition to all of the educational opportunities, NRPA hosts an extremely large expo that has all of the latest and greatest in Parks and Recreation. Vendors vary from software solutions, mowers, skate and bicycle park ramps, ball field maintenance innovations and equipment, field lighting solutions, new games and sports equipment, and everything you would ever need to operate indoor and outdoor pools.

Also included in the experience are tours of various recreational facilities in the host cities. We were able to visit Busch Stadium and City Museum (which is really a large indoor play structure). The Busch Stadium tour was particularly interesting to me when it came to their

actual playing field and their maintenance practices. They actually chill their irrigation water to 40 degrees before watering the field in order to keep the Kentucky bluegrass thriving in such a warm and humid climate.

As much as anything, the networking opportunities with parks and recreation professionals from around the world make the trip worthwhile. Making those connections and being able to discuss mutual challenges and new ideas with other professionals is always a great thing. Talking with people in your profession from different regions always lends a different perspective to what you are doing and may spark a new program or way to get the community more involved in your current offerings.

I have been fortunate enough to attend NRPA quite a few times over the last 16 years and I always come back with new ideas and a new enthusiasm for how important a quality parks and recreation system is to a community.



Rick Elumbaugh is mayor of Batesville and a former League president.

NRPA
National Recreation
and Park Association

Time to levy property taxes


City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). A.C.A. § 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes. Until 2016, this could be done only at the November meeting of the Quorum Court. However, Act 15 of 2016 (3rd Ex. Sess.) amended the law to permit the levy to occur at the December meeting as well.

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

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

NLR employees participate in training to boost respect and understanding



League Health and Safety Coordinator David Baxter led a training session on Achieving Respect And Understanding In The Workplace for 36 North Little Rock city employees on Oct. 21 at the North Little Rock Electric Department. During the session Baxter discussed the many cultural differences—from religion, to race, to sex, and age—that can make relationships at work challenging and how to work together to get past biases. For an overview of these topics, read the League’s new publication, *Achieving Respect and Understanding in the Arkansas Municipal Workplace*, available in print or free download on our website, www.arml.org, by clicking on “Services” and then “Publications” in the drop-down menu. To schedule a training session for your city employees, contact David Baxter at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 110, or email dbaxter@arml.org. 

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479.474.1227

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501.374.4846

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AHTD summit looks at highway safety in Arkansas



By Neil Foreman

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) held a two-day event, Arkansas Safety Summit 2016, on September 13 and 14 at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Little Rock. Other participating agencies included the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, the Arkansas State Police, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

The program began Tuesday with opening remarks by Scott Bennett, P.E., director of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department; Col. William Bryant of the Arkansas State Police; and Dr. Nate Smith, Arkansas Department of Health. The program continued with topic speakers to the lunch hour. The second half of the day was devoted to breakout sessions on specialized topics that included roadway departures, motorcycles, emergency services capability and our statewide trauma system, younger drivers, distracted driving, pedestrian safety, intersections, impaired driving (including drowsy driving), work zones, and bicyclists. On day two the breakout sessions were repeated to allow participants to attend presentations from day one if missed.

A wide variety of participants attended, including highway design engineers, highway maintenance and construction professionals, safety professionals, tow and recovery operators, and EMS professionals. State, county, and local law enforcement officers also attended.

Significant takeaways

- Fatalities on public roadways in our state decreased from 649 in 2007 to 466 in 2014 since the adoption of the first Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Unfortunately, roadway fatalities increased to 531 in 2015.
- Preliminary crash data for 2016 indicate an upward trend in fatalities.
- Alcohol-impaired driving continues to be a significant contributing factor in roadway fatalities. The education campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, aims to address this along with enforcement strategies.
- Other education campaigns, such as Click It or Ticket, are being employed to address contributing factors in fatalities.

The AHTD and its partners need our support in the "Toward Zero Deaths—One is Too Many" campaign. Please review the Arkansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan at AHTD's website, arkansashighways.com. There you'll find detailed roadway fatality information and efforts being made to reduce roadway fatalities, many of which are preventable.



Neil Foreman is the League's director of loss control and marketing. Contact him at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 122, or email nforeman@arml.org.

Regional meetings

The nine regional meeting held this Fall have all been well attended and productive. We will pick up again in December as six cities across Arkansas host regional meetings to discuss issues important to municipalities of all sizes and to share information about the League programs and services available to assist cities and towns.

The dates and locations are:

- ◆ Thursday, Dec. 1, Texarkana
- ◆ Friday, Dec. 2, Stephens
- ◆ Monday, Dec. 12, North Little Rock
- ◆ Tuesday, Dec. 13, Dumas
- ◆ Wednesday, Dec. 14, Arkadelphia
- ◆ Tuesday, Dec. 20, Pine Bluff.

Morrilton moves into new city hall



Morrilton's new city hall is a remodeled former bank.

Morrilton held an open house to celebrate its new city hall on Oct. 12. The building at 119 North Division Street is a former bank. It is the city's third city hall, after outgrowing their previous home at a former Coca-Cola plant downtown. The city purchased and remodeled the building, which also houses the police department, with

a \$3 million bond issue passed two years ago. The bond issue is also funding several other improvement projects in the city.

The new city hall features office and meeting space, the city council's chambers, and the police department. What were the bank's vaults now serve as the police's evidence room and a safe room.



Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer, with scissors, cuts the ribbon on the new city hall.

Fairs & Festivals

Nov. 15-Dec. 31, PINE BLUFF, 20th Enchanted Land of Lights & Legends, (870) 536-7600

Nov. 18-Dec. 31, FAYETTEVILLE, Lights of the Ozarks, (479) 521-5776

Nov. 19, BENTONVILLE, Lighting of Bentonville Square, (479) 254-0254

Nov. 21, HOT SPRINGS, 14th Chili Cook-off and Christmas Lighting, (501) 469-7190

Nov. 25-26, STUTTGART, 81st World's Championship Duck Calling Contest & Wings Over the Prairie Festival, (870) 673-1602

Nov. 25-Dec. 25, ALMA, Lights in the Park, (479) 806-4975

Nov. 26, CORNING, Christmas in the Park, (870) 857-9001; **MARVELL**, 19th Marvell Main Street Festival, (870) 829-1001; **PARIS**, Christmas Parade, (479) 963-2244; **SPRINGDALE**, Christmas Parade of the Ozarks, (479) 756-0464

Nov. 26-Dec. 31, FORT SMITH, Holiday Lights at Creekmore Park, (800) 637-1477

Nov. 27, MCGEHEE, Christmas Lights in the Park Celebration and Parade, (870) 222-4451

Nov. 28, FAIRFIELD BAY, Light up the Bay, (501) 884-3324

Nov. 28-Dec. 30, SHERWOOD, Sherwood's Enchanted Forest Trail of Lights, (501) 835-8909

Nov. 29, MONTICELLO, 23rd Christmas Parade, (870) 367-6741

Dec. 1, BRYANT, 10th Lighted Christmas Parade, (501) 847-4702; **MAGNOLIA**, Magnolia's Night of Twinkling Lights, (870) 234-4352; **MARION**, Christmas on the Square, (870) 739-6041; **POCAHONTAS**, Stroll the Square Christmas Parade, (870) 248-0450; **PRESCOTT**, Christmas Parade and Christmas on the Square, (870) 887-2101; **RUSSELLVILLE**, Christmas Parade, (479) 968-1272; **WYNNE**, Festival of Trees, (870) 238-2601

Dec. 1-Dec. 31, GREENWOOD, 8th Greenwood Holiday Trail of Lights, (479) 252-6449

Dec. 1-Jan. 7, BATESVILLE, White River Wonderland, (870) 698-2400

Dec. 2, DARDANELLE, Christmas Parade, (479) 229-3328; **EUREKA SPRINGS**, Parade of Lights, (479) 253-8737; **ROGERS**, Christmas Parade, (479) 936-5487; **WHITE HALL**, 2nd White Hall Community Christmas, (870) 247-2399

Dec. 3, ASH FLAT, Christmas Parade, (870) 994-7325; **BEEBE**, Beebe's Lighted Christmas Parade, (501) 882-8135; **BERRYVILLE**, Christmas Parade, (870) 423-3139; **CLARKSVILLE**, Light up the Square, (479) 754-2340; **DE QUEEN**, Christmas Parade, (870) 584-3225; **HEBER SPRINGS**, Christmas Parade, (501) 362-2444; **LITTLE ROCK**, Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade, (501) 370-3248; **MANSFIELD**, Christmas Parade, (479) 928-5552; **MENA**, Mena Christmas Festival & Parade of Lights, (479) 394-8355; **PALESTINE**, Christmas Parade, (870) 581-2166; **PARAGOULD**, Holiday Traditions, (870) 240-0544; **SHERWOOD**, Christmas Parade, (501) 835-6893; **SILOAM SPRINGS**, All I Want at Christmas, (479) 524-4556; **VAN BUREN**, Living Windows, Lighting of the Courthouse, & Festival of Trees, (800) 332-5889; **WALDRON**, Downtown Lighting Ceremony, (479) 637-2775

Dec. 4, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Christmas Parade & Northern Lights Festival, (501) 758-1424

Dec. 5, BRINKLEY, Lighting of the Park, (870) 734-2262; **HOT SPRINGS**, Christmas Parade, (501) 321-2277; **TEXARKANA**, 32nd Main Street Christmas Parade, (903) 792-7191

Dec. 6, JACKSONVILLE, 59th Jacksonville Christmas Parade, (501) 982-4171; **PARAGOULD**, Christmas Parade, (870) 240-0544

Dec. 8, EL DORADO, Christmas Parade, (870) 863-6113; **MARION**, Christmas Parade, (870) 733-5767; **NEWPORT**, Lighting of the Courthouse & Christmas Parade, (870) 523-3618

Dec. 10, BEEBE, Christmas Festival, (501) 882-8135; **BENTONVILLE**, Christmas Parade, (479) 254-0254; **GENTRY**, Christmas Parade, (479) 736-2358; **OZARK**, Christmas Parade, (479) 667-2949; **VAN BUREN**, Christmas Parade, (580) 467-6377

Dec. 11, ALTUS, Christmas Parade, (479) 468-4191

Had a great event? Share your photos with us at citytown@arml.org



CALENDAR

NLC City Summit
November 16-19, 2016
Wednesday-Saturday
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Arkansas Municipal League's 2017 Winter Conference
January 11-13, 2017
Wednesday-Friday
Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas Municipal League's 83rd Convention
June 14-16, 2017
Wednesday-Friday
Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkadelphia launches inaugural Storm Drain Awareness Week

Arkadelphia launched its inaugural Storm Drain Awareness Week Oct. 17-21, with the mayor proclaiming Oct. 18 as Storm Drain Awareness Day, the city has announced. Made possible through a grant from the Alcoa Foundation, this special event is geared toward educating elementary-age children about the importance of maintaining pollutant-free storm water drainage systems that direct runoff to our waterways, while also beautifying the city.

Storm Drain Awareness Week was the official debut of original artwork painted on seven of the city's storm drains, which lead directly to Clark County's waterways. The original designs were selected through an art contest with entries coming from Ouachita Baptist University, Henderson State University, and Arkadelphia High School, and can be viewed on a self-guided walking tour. In addition, 150 more drains have had four-inch round drain markers applied by the Street Department, ensuring that the citywide program is not only beautiful, it is also effective in keeping the area's beautiful waterways free of trash and pollutants.



Former City Manager Jimmy Bolt was inspired to create the program after he had seen similar art programs elsewhere. He quickly realized it could work in Arkadelphia, where DeGray Lake and the Ouachita River are such essential drivers of tourism and industry.

Arkadelphia Director of Grants and Research Nancy Anderson took up the helm of the project and was able to bring the idea to fruition, first creating a website and soliciting entries for the juried art contest.

To bring together the city beautification and education aspects of the grant, a coloring and activity book was supplied to all first- through fourth-grade classrooms on Oct. 18, following a reading of the mayor's official proclamation of the day as Storm Drain Awareness Day. The book, *Only Rain in the Drain*, was created through collaboration with The Diamond Agency in El Dorado. Writer Brooke Burger and artist Lacey Franks told the





PHOTOS BY HANNA DEAN.

story of Clark and his friends Rita Raindrop, Wally Walleye, and Harriet Heron, who introduce him to their habitat and teach him why it's important to keep storm drains, and the waterways they feed into, clean. In addition, the coloring book is available at the Diamond Lakes Welcome Center at 124 Valley Street.

“One of the joys of working on this project is seeing students get real-life experience as the classroom connects with the community and most particularly city government. Learning together has been so much fun,” Anderson said. “We have definitely raised awareness, but only time will tell if all of that translates into better storm water drainage practices. I think we’ve laid a good foundation.”

Second and third graders at Central Primary School enjoyed the debut of the stage production of *Only Rain in the Drain*, presented by the Arkadelphia Public Schools on Oct. 18 as well. Afterwards, students took the “Drain Ranger Pledge” and were sworn in as official Arkadelphia Drain Rangers. The play was also a part of a video project created by the EAST Lab web development students and teachers, which includes footage of the drain art and the area’s watershed. 🏠

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Arkansas Minimum Wage increasing to \$8.50 per hour

The minimum wage mandated by state law in Arkansas will increase to \$8.50 per hour on January 1, 2017 (Ark. Code Ann. § 11-4-210). Although the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour (29 U.S.C. § 206(a)), the Arkansas General Assembly has enacted the higher rate for Arkansas. For additional information on wage and hour rules, please refer to “The Fair Labor Standards Act—21 Things You Should Know” on the League’s website on the “Legal FAQs” page under the “Resources” tab. 🏠



A fresh coat of paint and other touch-ups made possible through the Revamp Crossett program has helped the Ashley Inn stay competitive.

Local business grant programs pay dividends

By Shelby Fiegel

In our communities, sometimes our buildings need a “fresh coat of paint” to take quality of life initiatives to the next level. Investing a little capital into businesses for beautification efforts is low hanging fruit that we can all take advantage of, and in Crossett that is exactly what the city is doing.

Crossett has created a program called Revamp Crossett, which offers grants to small businesses within Crossett city limits for exterior upgrades, such as exterior cleaning, repainting, landscaping, awnings, and lighting. This program, modeled after the city of Newport’s successful ReNewport Grants, is operated by the Crossett Economic Development Foundation and offers a 50/50 cash match, with a maximum award of \$2,500. This means a Crossett business that receives the grant can complete a \$5,000 project for half the out-of-pocket cost. Businesses are eligible for one grant every year.

Mayor Scott McCormick of Crossett spearheaded the effort to develop the program. After discovering the ReNewport Grant program, he brought the idea before the Crossett Economic Development Foundation board and encouraged the Foundation’s leadership to develop a similar program that would work for Crossett. Thus, Revamp Crossett was born.

McCormick believes the Revamp Crossett program is a critically important piece of the community.

“Our community was in the process of searching for ways to improve our city while supporting our small businesses at the local level when I heard about the ReNewport Grants the Newport Economic Development Commission offers,” McCormick said. “I thought a program similar to theirs would be a great way to achieve our goals. Since its inception, the Revamp Crossett program has improved some of our businesses’ exterior environments, thus making our town more inviting and has assisted in growing our local economy.”

Revamp Crossett began in 2010 and has thus far helped 38 local businesses make improvements. Examples of specific improvements include landscaping, parking lot improvements, painting, new lighting, power washing, signs, and a unique faux façade project that emulates architecture from historic buildings found in Crossett. Over the course of six years the Revamp Crossett program has invested thousands of dollars into improvements for local businesses.

Mike Smith, executive director at Crossett Economic Development Foundation, said, “These grants are the Foundation’s opportunity to help local, small businesses



A dingier Ashley Inn before.

beautify their building and attract more customers to their front doors.”

According to Rebecca Cosby, co-owner of Cosby’s Greenhouse and a Revamp Crossett grant recipient, the grants not only have a positive effect on local businesses, but also have an effect on the community as a whole.

“Not only does the Revamp Crossett program alleviate costs for businesses to make much needed aesthetic improvements to their businesses, it also helps our community look better,” she said. “Beautification is very important to citizens in our community and even visitors from outside of our community.”

As we look forward to the future of community and economic development, quality of life will play a vital role in the success of Arkansas communities. Young professionals no longer look for work then move to a community; they look for a community they want to live, work, and play in, then find a job there. Programs such as Revamp Crossett and the ReNewport Grants are quality of life initiatives that can be structured to fit almost any sized city, even one with a small budget. Investing and encouraging investment in beautification efforts and aligning those efforts consistently will pay off big dividends in the long run.

You can learn more about Revamp Crossett at www.cityofcrossett.net/revamp-crossett or contact Mike Smith at mike@cityofcrossett.net. You can also learn more about ReNewport at www.newportarcity.org/economic-development/incentives/renewport-grant or contact Newport Economic Development Commission Executive Director Jon Chadwell at director@newportaredc.org.



Shelby Fiegel is Project Coordinator, University of Central Arkansas, Center for Community and Economic Development.

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Civil engineers keep cities running smoothly

By Byron Hicks, PE

Since we have officially entered the holiday season and Thanksgiving is now upon us, we hope you have many, many things for which to be thankful. As civil engineers in the state of Arkansas, we at McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. (MCE), realize just how truly fortunate we all are. As we go through this season, we have been reminded of all of these things for which we can be thankful as a result of our profession.

Nowadays, we tend to associate civil engineering with the world's most amazing structures like the Golden Gate Bridge, the Empire State Building, or the Panama Canal. However, civil engineering is also about maintaining and adapting the infrastructure that we depend on every day, such as our roads, our railways and bridges, our energy and water supplies, our waste networks, and our flood deficiencies. Civil engineers are responsible for keeping this infrastructure running efficiently, with the ability to adapt it to meet challenges that arise such as population growth, climate change, and natural disasters.

Throughout history, civil engineers have been designing and building facilities that have helped advance our civilization as a whole, and have improved our standard of living. Our field involves the conception, planning, design, construction and operation of facilities that are essential to modern life. This means transit systems, infrastructure, and dealing with issues regarding pollution, traffic congestion, drinking water, energy needs, urban redevelopment, community planning, municipal planning, and much more.

We feel blessed, especially on Thanksgiving, to be afforded the luxuries of gathering in our homes with clean running water, indoor toilets, energy that provides heat, and the ability to cook and store food. If we need to go to the grocery store, we have good roads to get us there, and we know the store will be well stocked with food products that were transported from great distances. As we travel, we pass through communities with streetlights, paved roadways, and ditches that are sanitary and well drained, and where garbage is collected and disposed of properly. We also see trails and parks for exercise and enjoyment, which greatly increase our quality of life.

These things are all possible thanks to civil engineers who apply their knowledge and expertise to help the communities in which we live and work. But there are many who live in less developed countries and haven't yet

had the chance to see and benefit from the results of civil engineering. Many of us in America have so much, and the things we worry about are of minute importance when compared to the challenges faced by others who live in less developed countries than our own.

As we give thanks for the bounties we enjoy this Thanksgiving, we remember those who do not have clean water, proper sanitation, or adequate roads for travel. Our hope is that one day all communities on earth will be healthy, safe places for people to live and work.

At MCE we are delighted, on a daily basis, to assist Arkansas's mayors, city council members, public works officials, and all of the city department leaders we work with on a daily basis to improve and build upon the infrastructure of our Arkansas communities. It is a unique opportunity to work with those who make critical decisions that affect those living in the cities and towns in which we work. And for that, we couldn't be more grateful.

On behalf of all of the civil engineers and planners, we at MCE would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing our discipline to serve you and your communities to improve the quality of life of which we all enjoy.



Byron Hicks, PE, is Chairman/CEO of McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Byron at bhicks@mcclelland-engrs.com.



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Changes to 2016 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to Whitnee Bullerwell, wvb@arml.org.



Bay

Delete WEB www.bayarkansas.or
Add WEB www.cityofbay.org

Caldwell

Delete M Gary Hughes
Add M Kevin Middlebrook
Delete AL Kevin Middlebrook
Add AL (Vacant)

Carlisle

Delete C/T (Vacant)
Add C/T Angelia James
Delete AM Angelia James
Add AM (Vacant)

Cherokee Village

Delete C/T Stephanie Johnson
Add /A/C/T Kathi Blackwell

Fort Smith

Delete PD (Vacant)
Add PD Naomi Roundtree
Delete /A/PC Dean Pitts
Add PC Nathaniel Clark

Gilbert

Delete M David Timby
Add M Mitch Mortvedt
Delete AL Mitch Mortvedt
Add AL Jim Clontz
Delete AL Bonnie Baker
Add AL Billy Baker

Goshen

Delete MR David Edwards
Add PC Zebulon Rone

Greenland

Delete AL Katherine Hudson
Add AL Larry Forrester

Hardy

Delete WEB www.discoverhardy.com
Add WEB www.visithardyarkansas.com
Delete R/T Carolyn Gorves
Add R/T Myranda Hobbs
Delete AL Liane Maddox
Add AL Danny Eitel
Delete AL Greg Bess
Add AL Bruce Thurow

Harrisburg

Delete AL Heather Harris
Add AL Sloan Holzhaeuer

Hector

Delete AL Jeane Hull
Add AL Jason Waterson
Delete AL Shane Williams
Add AL (Vacant)

Hope

Delete C Carol Almond
Add C Connie Lavender
Add PD Theresa Fields

Junction City

Delete PC Tim Matthews
Add PC LE Bud McMunn, Sr.

Morrison Bluff

Delete M Joe Siebenmorgen, Jr.
Add M Charlotte Siebenmorgen
Delete AL Charlotte Siebenmorgen
Add AL Rick Snow

Maumelle

Delete C/T (Vacant)
Add C/T Tina Timmons
Delete PD Vernon James
Add PD (Vacant)
Delete FO Tasha Thompson
Add FO Carolyn Korte
Delete DPW Joanie Smith
Add DPW Mike Hogan
Add AC Rita Cavenaugh
Delete AL Preston Lewis
Add AL Terry Williams
Delete AL Marion Scott
Add AL Timmons Timmons

Wheatley

Delete MR Billy Spencer
Add MR (Vacant)

Wynne

Delete AL Ronald Baldwin
Add AL (Vacant)
Delete DJ (Vacant)
Add DJ Howard Mike Smith

Talking turkey about avoiding food poisoning

By Pam Hill, Pharm.D.

It's Thanksgiving, and after the feast, the leftovers sit out on the table for a quick sandwich or fixing a plate for supper. Is that a recipe for food poisoning? Not necessarily, but here are a few simple things to keep in mind to make sure no one gets sick from the way food is prepared and stored during the holiday season.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in six Americans suffers from a foodborne illness each year. These illnesses cost an estimated \$15.6 billion annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Safe food practices begin at the grocery store. Always keep your meat products separated from each other and other foods to avoid contamination from the juices. Pick an area of the basket to store all meat in while shopping. Use a recyclable bag or grab a few extra plastic bags from the produce section to store the meat in while shopping to avoid contamination. If you use a recyclable bag, be sure and wash before further use.

Proper food prep and thawing

Once you are in the kitchen and preparing the food, start with a clean space by cleaning all surfaces, cutting boards, plates and utensils with warm, soapy water. Wash your hands thoroughly and often, lathering with soap and warm water. Don't let anyone who is sick help with preparing or cooking the food.

Never mix foods or meats in the same space. If your kitchen doesn't have multiple areas for preparing food, finish with one meat or food product, clean the space and start again. With veggies and fruits, be sure and wash the items even if you plan to peel because bacteria can contaminate the inside during the peeling process.

Always thaw food in the refrigerator instead of on the counter. Plan ahead days or even a week in advance to allow plenty of time to properly thaw. Foodborne illnesses mostly occur through bacteria growth, which occurs when food is kept at an unsafe temperature for too long. This occurs between 40 and 140 degrees.

Cooking, storing, and reheating

One of the best tools to have on hand is a food thermometer. When cooking meat, it should reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees in the thickest, innermost part.

With a turkey, you want to check the temperature in three different places—innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest portion of the breast—to assure 165 degrees has been reached. Do not stick the thermometer directly on a bone, as it will skew the reading.

Using a thermometer to measure the temperature in all cooked foods is recommended since cooking times in recipes are merely estimations. Follow all steps of your recipe, including if it states to let the dish set for a period of time after it has finished cooking. Heat will continue to spread to all areas and continue to cook, even outside of the oven.

Cooked foods should not be left out for more than two hours because bacteria will start to grow and can cause food poisoning. So those Thanksgiving leftovers—turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole and more—should be sent to the fridge after dinner. Breads, raw fruit, raw veggies, and some desserts can wait a while longer.

When storing, divide leftovers into smaller containers to help foods cool down quicker and allow for easier rewarming. Again, you'll need to reheat to 165 degrees before eating.

Be sure to label all leftovers with dates. For a list of safe storage limits, both in the refrigerator and freezer, visit www.foodsafety.gov. For concerns about whether someone has food poisoning, call the UAMS Poison Control hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

The holidays are a time to enjoy with family, friends and good food. Make sure a few missteps in the kitchen don't ruin your holiday season.



Pam Hill, Pharm.D., is Certified Specialist in Poison Information, Poison Control Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

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

Attempt to beat a drug test a misdemeanor

Attempts to beat a drug test are a daily occurrence.

Employers can receive phone calls from the a'TEST staff concerning an employee or applicant who has tried to defraud a drug test. In Department of Transportation testing, the inappropriate specimen is sealed and sent to the laboratory along with a second specimen. The second specimen would be collected under "direct observation." For non-governmental regulated testing, the employer will make the decision whether to do an additional test or to just let the donor leave. A second test costs employers money, all because the employee tried to beat your required test.

In Arkansas, an attempt to beat a drug test is a Class B Misdemeanor and is punishable by a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

States legalizing marijuana

There is a lot of discussion concerning marijuana—legalized or medical. At present, over 26 states and the District of Columbia have made the decision to approve it in one form or another. In November, Arkansas, North Dakota, and Florida will decide whether to approve the legalization of marijuana.

According to the Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association, some 13.1 million drug abusers were employed in 2007. Dealing with drug and alcohol problems costs roughly \$276 billion each year. From 2012-14, positive employee marijuana drug test results increased by 6.2 percent nationally. In Colorado and Washington that number increased 20-23 percent.

The statistics are staggering and, with more legalizations passing, these numbers will surely go up.

Expanded testing

There are many unique drug-testing situations that employers may encounter, and a'TEST is qualified to assist you. Beyond urine drug screening, our staff is trained to conduct testing on hair, fingernails, saliva, and blood.

Through one of our specialty laboratories, we can access testing for unknown chemicals, toxins, poisons, heavy metals, and unknown substances. Tests of hair and urine for ETG (alcohol) and expanded drug panels for hair testing are available.

Specialized testing has additional costs, but it is always good to know there is a source to help with unique situations that may arise. You can count on our trained staff and capable laboratories to conduct the needed testing.

As a company, we strive to meet our clients' needs. If you need information on a specialized test, please contact Matt Gerke at (501) 376-9776 for a consultation.



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's required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.

arkansas municipal league

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The deadline for enrollment in the *Arkansas Municipal League 2016 Municipal Officials and Department Heads Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan* is **Dec. 31, 2016.**

Contact Tammie Williams at 501-374-3484, Ext. 216, or e-mail twilliams@arml.org.

Initiative to work in five cities with schools

The group Forward Arkansas, backed by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, has announced that five cities have been selected to benefit from the initiative, which will offer a tailored set of ideas based on each city's schools' needs. The cities chosen are Batesville, Crossett, Marianna, Pea Ridge, and Springdale.

In Crossett the assistance could come in the form of workforce education and skill training, while in Marianna it could be something different, Corey Biggs, associate director of Forward Arkansas told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

"We wanted to have a cohort of communities that represented the geographic and cultural diversity of our state," Biggs said. "We envision this being a process where good ideas and progress in one part of the state can be shared with the other parts and vice versa. It's going to look different in every place. Each of these communities is unique and we want it to be something that is created by the community and driven by the community."

Biggs and Kenneth Jones, Forward Arkansas's communities liaison, will work with a group of city leaders and community members in each chosen town to discuss what the residents want for their town's future, related to students and education.

The two will present options and best practices—possibly in the form of programs from other states or school districts—but it will be up to each community to decide what is best, Jones said.

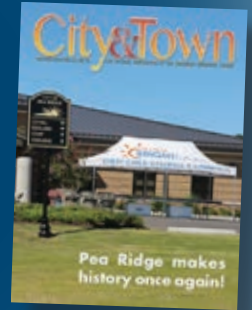
"We aren't going to dictate anything. We're going to present a menu, support them with collaborative methodology that allows the community to come together and reach a consensus on how to move forward, how they will evaluate that, how to make a decision to change or modify what they are doing—but all in the service of education and their students," he said. 🏛️

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Obituaries

RONALD GENE "RONNIE" BALDWIN, 63, a Wynne alderman since 2009 who was also a former Wynne police officer, chief of police in Brinkley, Cross County sheriff, and who served as president of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association and on the board of the National Sheriffs' Association, died Aug. 28.

RAY GOSACK, 58, who served as Fort Smith city administrator from 2011 to 2015 after 12 years as the city's deputy city administrator and as administrative assistant from 1985 to 1988, died Oct. 21.

CHUCK HART, JR., 47, a Marianna volunteer fire fighter for 20 years, died Nov. 5.

League welcomes Philippine municipal employee on exchange fellowship

The League has been honored in October and early November to be one of the hosts of Rosalie “Chalie” Molina, a municipal employee of Zamboanga City, Philippines. Molina is a professional fellow in an exchange program of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative aimed at building the leadership capabilities of young government and non-profit professionals by working directly with American counterparts.



During her visit, Molina, left, with the League’s Tricia Zello, right, gained insight into the League’s meeting and registration process.

Molina serves as an administrative aide within the City Investment Promotion Services in Zamboanga City, which has a population of 861,799. She is focused on city expansion, economic development, and sustainable development, and she works to expand food security within the indigenous displaced persons in the community. During her Arkansas visit she hopes to better understand U.S. agricultural business, local sustainable development efforts, and grassroots economic development practices that she can take home with her. She was also able to attend one of the regional meetings at De Queen.



PHOTO BY CINDY HERRON.

Molina, right, toured the Arkansas State Capitol with the League’s Jack Critcher, left.

The Philippines and its cities struggle with higher levels of crime and civil unrest than cities in the United States, and the economy can be more turbulent; however cities and their leaders have the same goals as municipal officials in Arkansas, she says. They seek to improve infrastructure, increase economic empowerment, and improve the quality of life for their citizens. 🏛️



Molina received an overview of the services and programs the League offers Arkansas cities and towns.

Budget with an eye toward your strategic plan

By Chad Gallagher

Nothing better states the priorities, vision, and mission of a city better than its budget. Budgets are not only a legal obligation and a guiding document, but they also speak to outsiders about your city's viability. Grant programs often request to see annual budgets for this very reason.

Municipal budget planning is a time to set priorities, evaluate income and sales tax receipts, utility rates, expenditures, capital needs, and figure out a way to make the money stretch out. Budgeting is also an act of collaboration. Arkansas law requires the mayor to submit a budget and the council to approve or disapprove. This power sharing is designed to ensure no one branch is too strong.

Municipalities have a wide range of responsibilities, and these only seem to grow year to year. Cities and towns are responsible for police and fire protection, code enforcement, utility services, solid waste, economic development, infrastructure improvements, animal control, parks and recreation, planned growth, and much more. City leadership must find enough funding opportunities to keep pace with new and proposed projects. This is one reason that the grant process is important. However, it is also why creating the municipal budget should be a purposeful, strategic exercise. Your expenditures play a pivotal role because they impact the quality of life of municipal citizens.

Since the municipal budget determines the amount of resources available to each department, budgeting usually exerts more influence on what gets done than a strategic plan. When push comes to shove and decisions are being made throughout the year, it is the budget that throws its weight around. The abundance or scarcity of funds dictate public projects more than any other factor. It is because the budget is such an important part of municipal government that it should be tied to a strategic plan. In essence, create a budget that is working to achieve your goals and serves as an integral part of a vision. If it doesn't, then before the year's over you will be its slave.

Building a haphazard budget—or simply repeating what was done the year before, and the year before that—leads to stagnation or so many budget amendments that the initial document becomes meaningless. Governing simply cannot be about shuffling the numbers a bit from year to year. The budget should be a workhorse. It is designed to be one of the main cylinders in the engine driving the city forward.

Every municipality should have a governing strategic document, a community blueprint. It maps out a future direction, what you would like to build, and the desired results the community would like to see achieved. Each community blueprint should cover a wide spectrum of issues and clearly articulate the community's overall objectives. This blueprint casts a clear picture of the community's destination. In return, the budget should advance the fulfillment of this vision. Every mayor and city council can articulate what they hope to accomplish, even if a formal process has not been conducted. While we recommend a formal process be initiated, it is fundamental that the budget be tied to these larger goals.

Many strategic plans do not achieve their goals because there is no organizational mechanism to drive the plan through the budgeting process. The strategic (bigger picture-longer term) thinking and the tactical managing (shorter term-narrower picture) of the organization are disconnected. The tactical is more specific, more immediate, and more tangible in its urgency and its payoffs. For this reason, the tactical tends to usurp the strategic. Without strong linking mechanisms between these two worlds, the strategic drifts out of focus and becomes less relevant.

Creating departmental objectives is key to preventing the overall strategic plan from being lost. Each department should be asked to create a list of department objectives, as well as a list of long-term capital improvements needed to achieve these objectives. Each objective should then be challenged against questions such as: Does the objective drive the overall strategic plan? Does the department objective fit into the sum total of the

plan? The key is to cause your department heads and managers to think more broadly, to consider the overall direction of the city, and to help achieve that goal.

Creating a strategic budget helps in your grant writing efforts. It allows you to demonstrate a thoughtful, organized approach to handling funds. It also allows the funder to see the city's good stewardship of resources, its practical planning capacity, and ultimately helps prove that when a great request is made the need is genuine and any assistance given compliments the city's thoughtful efforts.

The law is clear that the mayor will submit a budget to the council for approval but a deliberate community engagement process can enhance the building of that budget. Invite city employees to meet with you in small groups to get their opinions, hold neighborhood meetings, a couple of town halls, or meet for coffee with various citizens. Have a set agenda with questions and discussion points ready in order to gauge their views and thoughts on your budget ideas. Invite a couple of business leaders to work with you on the budget. Share your ideas, goals, and budget restraints and ask them to use their business experience to help you craft a budget. Listen with an open mind.

The budget process is important because it impacts every municipal activity. Every way that you can improve the budget process and the document itself is ultimately an improvement for your entire city.

A version of this column appeared previously in the October 2012 issue of City & Town.



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of De Queen. Contact him at 501-246-8842 or email chad.gallagher@legacymail.org.



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2016 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
January	\$4.8662	\$5.0284	\$0.5728	\$0.2297	\$2.0995	\$2.1382
February	\$4.8562	\$5.1992	\$0.4599	\$0.1524	\$1.0921	\$1.0775
March	\$5.1898	\$4.6255	\$0.2339	\$0.1655	\$1.0909	\$1.0778
April	\$4.7309	\$5.5340	\$0.6375	\$0.2342	\$1.1417	\$1.0777
May	\$5.2251	\$5.4590	\$0.2547	\$0.0745	\$1.0918	\$1.0773
June	\$5.2410	\$5.2768	\$0.2738	\$0.0968	\$1.0920	\$1.0778
July	\$5.3082	\$5.6734	\$0.6600	\$0.0987	\$2.9748	\$2.8803
August	\$5.0259	\$5.0337	\$0.2560	\$0.1292	\$0.9641	\$1.2006
September	\$5.3748	\$5.3389	\$0.2632	\$0.1482	\$1.0791	\$1.0906
October	\$5.2322	\$5.5217	\$0.2767	\$0.2562	\$1.0707	\$1.0896
November	\$5.0931		\$0.2797		\$1.0772	
December	\$4.8776		\$0.2499		\$1.0776	
Total Year	\$61.0210	\$52.6906	\$4.4181	\$1.5854	\$15.8515	\$13.7875

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
January	\$9,159,751.23	\$9,482,577.19	\$1,078,253.79	\$433,179.54	* \$3,951,880.56	* \$4,032,277.00
February	\$9,140,972.61	\$9,804,689.33	\$865,620.02	\$287,481.18	\$2,055,766.00	\$2,031,997.39
March	\$9,768,890.51	\$8,722,769.73	\$440,227.94	\$312,010.76	\$2,053,376.13	\$2,032,596.84
April	\$8,905,034.06	\$10,436,025.60	\$1,199,954.61	\$441,661.71	\$2,149,094.75	\$2,032,297.66
May	\$9,840,348.46	\$10,294,480.80	\$479,664.03	\$140,536.93	\$2,056,091.57	\$2,031,495.51
June	\$9,870,151.62	\$9,950,873.55	\$515,640.06	\$182,493.78	\$2,056,559.07	\$2,032,597.66
July	\$9,996,770.39	\$10,698,830.40	\$1,242,957.21	\$186,206.19	** \$5,602,259.11	*** \$5,431,589.73
August	\$9,465,188.42	\$9,492,433.07	\$482,195.54	\$243,594.47	\$1,815,712.03	\$2,264,157.25
September	\$10,122,118.61	\$10,068,067.87	\$495,609.13	\$279,548.09	\$2,032,276.34	\$2,056,681.01
October	\$9,866,818.54	\$10,421,889.30	\$521,753.79	\$483,529.74	\$2,019,155.56	\$2,056,531.47
November	\$9,604,609.53		\$527,387.24		\$2,031,292.21	
December	\$9,198,069.64		\$471,202.66		\$2,032,217.62	
Total Year	\$114,938,723.62	\$99,372,636.84	\$8,320,466.02	\$2,990,242.39	\$29,855,680.95	26,002,221.52

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

** Includes \$3,516,801.52 supplemental for July 2015

*** Includes \$3,517,035.84 supplemental for July 2016

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2016 with 2015 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax	Interest		
January	\$49,037,009	\$48,260,965	\$43,720,229	\$42,805,543	\$92,757,238	\$91,066,508	\$15,812	\$12,222
February	\$59,477,239	\$57,956,453	\$51,693,904	\$50,071,410	\$111,171,143	\$108,027,863	\$20,455	\$12,659
March	\$45,484,389	\$46,032,300	\$41,503,958	\$41,404,634	\$86,988,347	\$87,436,935	\$17,357	\$19,161
April	\$51,278,433	\$46,694,339	\$46,543,122	\$42,176,819	\$97,821,554	\$88,871,158	\$19,032	\$15,459
May	\$51,716,750	\$52,104,723	\$46,509,945	\$46,560,371	\$98,226,695	\$98,665,094	\$16,799	\$4,827
June	\$48,045,270	\$49,711,589	\$42,836,823	\$44,369,398	\$90,882,093	\$94,080,987	\$17,947	\$25,867
July	\$52,527,961	\$50,358,675	\$47,321,806	\$44,565,666	\$99,849,766	\$94,924,341	\$17,750	\$18,804
August	\$52,254,925	\$51,846,227	\$47,594,177	\$47,174,793	\$99,849,102	\$99,021,020	\$17,169	\$16,649
September	\$53,746,167	\$50,366,202	\$49,430,573	\$48,072,222	\$103,176,740	\$98,438,424	\$18,913	\$17,771
October	\$52,105,594	\$50,569,467	\$47,384,899	\$46,609,011	\$99,490,493	\$97,178,477	\$17,666	\$18,511
November	\$49,449,818	\$49,449,818	\$46,067,600	\$46,067,600	\$95,517,418	\$95,517,418	\$17,009	\$17,009
December	\$53,013,791	\$53,013,791	\$47,830,901	\$47,830,901	\$100,844,691	\$100,844,691	\$18,591	\$18,591
Total	\$515,673,736	\$606,364,549	\$464,539,436	\$547,708,368	\$980,213,172	\$1,154,072,916	\$178,899	\$197,530
Averages	\$51,567,374	\$50,530,379	\$46,453,944	\$45,642,364	\$98,021,317	\$96,172,743	\$17,890	\$16,461

2016 Elections

- BALD KNOB**, March 1
Failed. .5%
- BIG FLAT**, March 1
Passed. 1%
- GATEWAY**, March 1
Failed. 1%
- HACKETT**, March 1
Passed. 1%
- HARTFORD**, March 1
Passed. 1%
- MARION Co.**, March 1
Failed. .75%
Passed. .25%
- PULASKI Co.**, March 1
Failed. .25%
- RUDY**, March 1
Passed. .5%
- SILOAM SPRINGS**, March 1
Passed. .375%
- GARLAND Co.**, June 28
Passed. .625%
- LOGAN Co.**, July 12
Passed. 1%
- BOONE Co.**, Aug. 9
Passed. .25%
- BRYANT**, Aug. 9
Passed. .5% extension
- WEST FORK**, Aug. 9
Passed. 1%

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at citytown@arml.org or call 501-374-3484. Ads are FREE to League members and available at the low rate of \$.70 per word to non-members. For members, ads will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless we are notified to continue or discontinue. For non-members, ads will run for one month only unless otherwise notified.

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTING CLERK—The City of Tontitown is looking to fill the position of Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk for full or part-time. This person will be responsible for managing the day to day accounting, budgeting and purchasing activities of the city including all AR/AP processing. Successful applicant will handle technical reporting for each department and participate in financial and budget recommendations. Will be responsible for all yearly state and local audits. Experience with the CSA Accounting program a huge plus. College degree in accounting or finance preferred but not required. A minimum of 7 years verifiable accounting/finance experience is required. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and background check. Starting salary is negotiable based upon your knowledge and experience. Please include your salary requirements when applying. Applications are available on line at www.tontitown.com. You can email the application along with a color copy of your DL to adminasst@tontitownar.gov or mail it to: City of Tontitown, ATTN: Lori Bolen, P.O. Box 305, Tontitown, AR 72770. No phone calls please. EOE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR—Franklin County, Kan. (pop. Approx. 26,000; \$22.8 million budget; 245 EE's), one of the fastest growing counties in Kansas, seeks a County Administrator. For more information about the community, visit www.franklincoks.org. Candidates are required to have a master's degree in Public Admin., Business Admin., doctorate in Jurisprudence or a related field and at least five years of management experience. The preferred candidate will have 10 years of progressive management experience in county government, extensive experience in municipal finance and economic growth and development, preferably with rural communities of a similar size and complexity. Candidates must possess effective communication skills, be able to collaborate with the county commission, staff, public and other agencies, and be comfortable with a transparent form of government. Salary \$84,800 to \$120,800 DOQ. Benefits include health and life insurance, KPERS, and more. Apply online at www.HRePartners.com. Optional: Letter of application, salary history, resume, and 3 work-related references to Gayla Wilkins, Human Resources, Franklin County, 1428 S. Main, Suite 2, Ottawa, KS 66067; (785) 229-3444; fax (785) 229-3449; email gwilkins@franklincoks.org. Deadline for application November 13, 2016. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—City of Mansfield, P.O. Box 307, Mansfield, AR 72944. Position requires certification in D-2 Water. Applications will be accepted until position filled. No person shall, on the grounds of race, age, sex handicap, color, creed or national origin be subjected to discrimination under employment. Contact Mayor Larry Austin for further information, (479) 928-5552.

FINANCE COORDINATOR—Bryant is seeking a forward thinking and driven Finance Coordinator to help strengthen and develop our Finance Department. The city offers competitive wages, comprehensive benefits packages, excellent retirement programs and paid time-off. Requires knowledge of a specialized field (however acquired), such as basic accounting, computer, etc. Equivalent of four years in high school, plus night, trade extension, or correspondence school specialized training, equal to two years of college, plus 2 years related experience and/or training, and 19 to 23 months related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Requires valid Arkansas DL or a valid DL recognized by the State of Arkansas. Associates or Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field preferred. Position supervises a small group (1-3) of employees in the same or lower classification. Assigns and checks work; assists and instructs as required, but performs same work as those supervised, or closely related work, most of the time. Content of the work supervised is of a non-technical nature and does not vary in complexity to any great degree. This position starts with annual rate of \$39,917. For further information or to complete an application please visit www.cityofbryant.com and follow the employment link. Questions can be directed to the Human Resources Department, (501) 943-0999. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—The City of Gravette seeks a Finance Director. Manages the day-to-day accounting, budgeting and purchasing activities of the city; establishes and enforces proper accounting methods, maintains the integrity of accounting and reporting functions, coordinates and participates in financial/budget research including recommendations regarding research findings and prepares technical reports. Requires a minimum of a college degree in Accounting and/or Finance plus eight years of accounting/finance experience and five years of

supervisory/managerial experience. Applications are available in City Hall or at www.gravettear.com. Please hand deliver, email cpemblemton@gravettear.com or mail applications, with professional references and salary requirements, Attn: HR at 604 First Avenue SE, Gravette, AR 72736; or fax to (479) 787-5018. No phone calls please.

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN—The City of Paris is accepting applications for a Journeyman Lineman for full time employment. Duties include construction and maintenance of electric distribution system lines and facilities, climbing poles, working out of bucket trucks, on call and exposure to all weather conditions. Valid CDL required. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions, which may be picked up 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday at City Hall, 100 North Express Street, Paris, AR 72855; or email cityclerk@paris-ar.net. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF—Jasper is now accepting applications for a full-time police chief. Must be certified and meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Prefer live in the City Limits. Applications are available at: City of Jasper, City Hall, P.O. Box 434, Jasper, AR 72641. Resume must accompany application. Office hours are 8-4 Mon.-Fri., 870-446-2633. Open until filled.

POLICE OFFICER—Charleston is accepting applications for a full-time CID/patrol officer. Candidates must be able to meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. The City of Charleston maintains a residency requirement on full-time officers. Contact Charleston City Hall at (479) 965-2269 or email mail@aboutcharleston.com for an application. Application deadline is December 31. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—The City of Berryville is accepting applications for the position of Public Works Director. Duties include managing the city's public water system, wastewater collection system and street system. This position is also responsible for the effective supervision of department employees and related projects within the department. This position requires excellent human relation skills. Previous supervisory and/or managerial experience is preferred. A degree in a related field from an accredited college or university is also preferred, but not mandatory. A valid Water Operator's License from the Arkansas Department of Health is also a plus. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license. The selected candidate will receive a competitive salary and benefits package. Applications and job descriptions may be picked up at Berryville City Hall, 305 E. Madison Ave., or may be received by calling (870) 423-4414 or via email at jaylee@berryville.com. A resume must accompany the application. The position will remain open until filled. EOE.

WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGER—The City of Clinton Water and Sewer Department is accepting applications for the position of Water and Wastewater Manager. All candidates must have a current Class IV Water and Class III Wastewater license. Must have good writing and verbal communication skills. Job responsibilities, not limited to, but include: overseeing a budget, water and wastewater facilities, a construction crew, and administering a pretreatment program to industrial contributors to the sanitary sewer system. Clinton is a Regional Water System with approximately 15 employees, one Water Treatment Plant, one Wastewater Treatment Plant, and one Land Apply Wastewater System. Clinton Water Department just completed an upgrade to our current Water Treatment Plant with a new Clarifier and a Scad a System. Resumes must be received by Dec. 1. Send resume to: Clinton Water and Sewer Department, ATTN: Manager Position, P.O. Box 277, Clinton, AR 72031. EOE.

WATER OPERATOR—Forrest City Water Utility is seeking a water operator that has a Class IV Water Treatment and Distribution license. The Water Supply Operator is responsible for the operation of the Water Treatment Plant, storage distribution system monitoring on an assigned shift and other related duties. Application can be found on dws.arkansas.gov or you can ask for Derrick Spearman at Arkansas Workforce at (870) 633-2900 located at 300 Eldridge Rd #2, Forrest City, AR 72335. Application accepted until filled. Forrest City Water Utility is located at 303 N. Rosser in Forrest City, AR 72335 (870) 633.2921.

FOR SALE—45 1500-watt Hubbell Light Fixtures with 440-volt ballast, \$50 each. Will make you a good deal! Call Ashdown Mayor James Sutton, (870) 898-2622.





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McBryde, Andrew Stephens,
Mark McBryde, Jack Truemper

Seated from left:
Michele Casavechia,
Jason Holsclaw, Leigh
Ann Biernat, Dennis Hunt
(Executive Vice President and
Director of Public Finance)

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