

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan



ON THE COVER—Emma Avenue in downtown Springdale sparkled with holiday cheer on a recent December night. The city was a wonderful host for the League’s 2015 Fall Conference and we’re grateful for their hospitality. Read coverage of the successful conference beginning on page 6. Read also about El Dorado Mayor and League District 4 Vice President Frank Hash, Jonesboro’s new transit center, important notices on passing your municipal budget and holding the first meeting of the new year of the governing body, and much more.—atm

Features

6 Fall Conference preps League for 2016 and beyond

Municipal leaders from across Arkansas met in Springdale in December for the League’s 2015 Fall Conference, where they prepared for a successful 2016, discussed issues of mutual concern, and received updates from the state’s Congressional members.

20 Municipal infrastructure survey reveals needs

In October the League conducted a survey of municipal infrastructure needs, and responding cities and towns cited many immediate and short-term needs with a price tag of more than \$6 billion total.

24 League District 4 VP builds on city’s strengths

El Dorado Mayor and League District 4 Vice President Frank Hash works with his city’s leadership to make the Southwest Arkansas hub a festival and event destination while making headway on infrastructure needs.

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that Christmas time is upon us. In Batesville our landscape crews are steadily working hard to maintain our beautiful tour of lights. Each year, we are grateful for local businesses that continue to donate new lighting displays. With our new 31-foot animated snowman, known as Big Frost, this year proves to be our best to date! Our synthetic ice rink and the Little Rock Carriage Company are also back at Riverside Park this year. We have hot cocoa and popcorn also available to make it a family evening to remember.



Hopefully each of you will take the opportunity to visit some of the many remarkable displays of holiday lights around the state. For a complete list of attractions please visit Arkansas.com/trailofholidaylights.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Mayor Doug Sprouse and the city of Springdale for hosting a great Fall Conference. The League staff outdid themselves providing exceptional programs, meals, and speakers. The continuing education class on "Respect and Understanding" was packed with information about understanding societal changes on demographic, racial, generational, and gender issues.

Nate Miller was our guest for the opening night banquet, and Donnie Smith, president and CEO of Tyson Foods, Inc. spoke during our opening general session. Each of these men encouraged the city leaders to look at ways to build top-notch teams to make their cities great. After all, "Great Cities Make a Great State." The conference continued with updates on Arkansas highways, the bicycle and pedestrian plan, updates on Sister Cities, and online education and healthy cities, just to name a few.

As 2016 quickly approaches, please don't forget to mark your calendar for the next continuing education workshop, "City Government 101: Who Does What At City Hall," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 13 at League headquarters. This is a great opportunity to begin obtaining your core hours if you are not a certified municipal official. If you are already certified, please attend in order to gain useful information.

I would like to wish each of you a blessed holiday with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Rick Elumbaugh
Mayor, Batesville
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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League preps for the New Year at 2015 Fall Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Municipal leaders from across Arkansas gathered to discuss mutual challenges facing cities and towns, prepare for a successful 2016, hear from Congressional leaders about national issues affecting municipalities, and more at the League's 2015 Fall Conference, held Dec. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn and Northwest Arkansas Convention Center in Springdale. It was the League's third major meeting of 2015, and turnout was modest with 688 in total attendance.

The Fall Conference featured an extensive session on fostering respect and understanding in our cities and towns. Speakers discussed racial, demographic, and gender issues from a police perspective, a mayoral perspective, and from a human resources perspective. Three chiefs of police—North Little Rock's Mike Davis, Lake Village's Percy Wilburn, and Alma's Russell White—each encouraged police departments to engage in training and to develop community policing policies, including hiring officers that live in the cities in which they serve, when possible.

Police departments in Arkansas and across the nation are revisiting their policies and how they relate to racial and economic issues, homelessness, drug abuse, and other challenges in our cities, Chief Davis said. Making an effort to engage with citizens, whether through schools, churches, social media, or other methods, is essential to regaining trust, he said. Both police and city leaders should also highlight officers who volunteer, work with children, lead scout troops, or any other activity that bolsters the community.



Davis

"We have to start selling ourselves a little bit better, because if we don't, we're never going to get back to where we need to be," Davis said.

Chief Wilburn offered several ways police can help build good relationships in their community, including treating everyone equally, discussing ethics and integrity when you train, and keeping an open relationship with the press.

"Do not refuse to discuss what you can with the press," Wilburn said. "Remember this—if you won't talk to the press, the press is going to talk for you."



Wilburn

Increase positive interactions with police in your city, Chief White said. He cited recent studies that found negative interactions with police not only dissolved trust with the citizen involved, but it also spread to their family, neighbors, or anyone who witnessed the event. Increase positive interactions by visiting businesses to say hello, stopping to help a motorist who needs assistance, or walking through a neighborhood to visit folks. One caveat is that it does take time, he said.



White

“If you’re understaffed, or if you only have enough people to run your calls—if your officer goes from call to call with no time between—they can’t address those issues,” White said. “We’re all limited by budgets and restraints, but to be able to put those things in place, the officers have to have time to go out and have that interaction.”

League Director of Operations Ken Wasson encouraged city leaders to stay abreast of some of the major shifts occurring in our society—swift technological changes, the increasing global nature of our economy, demographic changes, and generational challenges as Baby Boomers retire and younger generations enter the workforce, and more.



Wasson

The League’s Health and Safety Coordinator David Baxter urged city leaders to increase their cultural awareness and expand efforts toward inclusivity. None of us are “culture-free,” Baxter said, offering that we must all be aware of our own cultural biases and sensitive to those with cultural backgrounds different from our own in order to strengthen our cities and society.



Baxter

Mayors Bill Ray McKelvy of De Queen, Larry Bryant of Forrest City, and Doug Sprouse of Springdale also shared their thoughts on embracing the diversity within their cities. De Queen’s population has grown in recent years, and the city is now majority Hispanic, McKelvy said. That aspect of their demographics must be

considered in every aspect of the city’s life, from schools to business to government, he said.

“It’s very competitive to hire Latino employees,” McKelvy said. “Businesses want them, industry wants them.”



McKelvy

McKelvy believes the city government should mirror the community, and the city has hired several Hispanic employees, including a police officer.

Forrest City’s population is 67 percent black, Mayor Bryant said, which presents a similar if opposite demographic challenge that majority white communities face.

“You have to have everybody there at the table,” Bryant said.



Bryant

Bringing diverse groups together is the key to economic development, for public safety, improving schools, and other important aspects of life in Forrest City, he said.

Springdale, a city of about 80,000, has a very diverse population, Sprouse said, with about 35 percent of Hispanic descent. It also has the largest Marhalles population outside of the Marshal Islands, and the city is home to the only Marshallese consulate outside of Washington, D.C.

“I grew up here in Springdale, and Springdale is a much different place than where I grew up,” Sprouse said, “and I’m thankful that it is. I’m thankful that my kids got to go to school and that my grandkids will get

to go to school with kids that don't look and sound just like they do. The cultural differences and experiences are great positives for our community.”



Sprouse

Streets and highways

In a session on streets, highways, and their impact on local economic development, conferees were updated on the status of the State Aid City Street Program, which includes some changes for next year. The State Aid Street Committee “has one goal,” Chairman Mike Gaskill, mayor of Paragould, said, “and that is to try to help every single city in the state of Arkansas.”



Gaskill

Steve Morgan, an engineer with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department who works primarily with the State Aid program, offered in-depth look at its current status. The program has been a great success in its first several rounds of funding, with more than \$56 million invested in 254 projects to date in more than half of the cities and towns in the state so far. In January the committee anticipates approving about 100 more projects, which will mean that by the end of 2016 State Aid City Street money will have helped 73 percent of our municipalities in just a few years.

Up to now, the program has focused primarily on overlay projects. Starting in 2016, however, the committee will begin accepting applications for 2017 projects that include design elements. First-time applicants will



Morgan

still receive some extra weight, but the committee will also begin accepting proposals from second-time applicants next year. To learn more about how to apply for the next funding cycle, visit www.citystreet.ar.gov.

Gard Wayt, executive director of the I-49 International Coalition, provided an update on the completion of I-49, which, when completed, will reach more than 1,700 miles from Winnipeg, Canada, to New Orleans, running down the western side of Arkansas on its way. The Arkansas leg between Fort Smith and Texarkana is the biggest missing piece remaining, Wayt said.



Wayt

“Until the missing link is completed,” he said, “the chain isn't complete, and all the benefits won't be accrued until that happens.”

A six-mile stretch between Fort Smith and Barling was recently completed and is already seeing both commercial and residential development along its length, he said. The entire state will benefit with the completion of I-49, Wayt said.

Dick Trammel, chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, updated the conference on the funding challenges for highways moving forward. Arkansas is 12th in the nation in highway miles within the state, but we're 40th in funding per mile “to take care of what we've got,” Trammel said, adding that, partially because of that disparity, we rank second in the country



Trammel

in highway department efficiency. He praised the recently passed five-year federal highway legislation, which increases overall funding by \$50 million.

We'll need increased funding on the state level to match that federal increase, he said, or we won't be able to take advantage of it.

"Who wants to send money back to D.C.?" he asked.

As the state looks for ways to cover a \$110 million shortfall in highway funding, Wayt assured the League that he would fight against taking it from local budgets.

"Let me tell you, I am not in favor of cutting any funds to our cities and our counties, OK? You helped us get where we are."

Court rulings and ballot issues

Several recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings could affect how cities and towns operate, and League Director of Legal Services Mark Hayes offered insights on these, which include cases involving the releasing of hotel guest records, hair and beard length regulations, reasonable lengths of time for traffic stops, cell phone tower request denials by cities, and others. For details on these cases, email Mark Hayes at mhayes@arml.org.



Hayes

The state legislature in 2015 referred three ballot issues to voters for the 2016 general election, and among these, one is of special concern to Arkansas cities and towns—Senate Joint Resolution 16 subtitled “An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to Encourage Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development.” It would authorize cities to “appropriate money for any corporation, association, institution, or individual to finance economic development projects and to provide economic development services,” among other purposes. Perry Webb, president and CEO of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in the initiative’s formation and asked for the League’s support. One of the impetuses for the proposed amendment was a recent challenge to the constitutionality of cities contracting with local chambers of commerce. To counter, Webb cited Texas cities and towns, which may fund economic development projects with local sales tax money. Being able to spend money locally on economic development would help cities and towns attract business and add jobs, he said.



Webb

“If we are to compete, why do we not want to be able to participate?” he asked.

Webb anticipated the League’s potential concerns about the amendment.

“This, quite frankly, will give you the ability to bankrupt your city,” he said. “Bad decisions will come back to bite you. The challenge is on [cities] to really be diligent in how you evaluate projects and requests that you get.”

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman confirmed that this was indeed a concern. Perry agreed to meet with the League’s executive committee soon in order to discuss potential safeguards that could be put in place to reduce the risk to cities. After that, Zimmerman said, the League could decide whether or not to support the proposed amendment at our Annual Convention in June 2016.

Looking ahead to 2016

With a new year comes new responsibilities and deadlines for cities and towns, and League Executive Director Don Zimmerman reminded municipal leaders of some of these important tasks. Mayors should have already submitted their budgets to their city councils by December 1, Zimmerman said. Councils must adopt the budget by February 1, but if you haven't adopted a budget by the end of the year, you don't have authority to spend money, he said, so it's best to adopt it sooner than later. See page 36 for more information on passing your municipal budget.



Zimmerman

The legislature in 2015 amended the statute governing the first-of-the-year organizational meeting for municipal governing bodies. A.C.A. §14-43-501 now calls for city and town governing bodies to have their first, organizational meeting of the year at any time in January, and it now applies to all forms of municipal government in Arkansas—mayor-council, city manager, and city administrator. See page 38 in this issue to examine the amended statute.

As the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues, cities and towns, as employers, face some important deadlines, starting Jan. 31, or face being penalized. The League has partnered with American Fidelity Assurance and Five Points to help cities understand the guidelines and meet the IRS reporting requirements. Over the last several months, Five Points and the League have hosted five workshops to help cities review what is required. Brian Mauck with American Fidelity Assurance provided Fall Conference attendees with an overview of the upcoming reporting requirements, which apply to all municipal employers, including those with fewer than 50 full-time employees.

"Starting in January, we all have to do something," Mauck said.

For further clarification on the ACA's IRS reporting requirements for employers, please contact your certified public accountant, tax attorney, or American Fidelity Assurance representative Charles Angel at 501-690-2532 or email Charles.Angel@americanfidelity.com.



Brown

The Fall Conference also offered several of the League's current slate of officers a chance to share with their fellow municipal leaders what they've learned from years in public service. Stephens Mayor Harry Brown, first vice president; Lake Village Alderman Sam Angel, District 1 vice president; North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith, District 2 vice president; and El Dorado Mayor Frank Hash, District 4 vice president shared their insights and concerns, which included the challenge of getting young people involved and interested in local government, the importance of taking care of city streets, treating each other with respect, and more.



Angel

The Fall Conference also welcomed two dynamic guest speakers, Tyson Foods President and CEO Donnie Smith and professional speaker Nate Miller. Each shared their thoughts on the importance of good leadership.



Smith

In addition to the many educational components, the Fall Conference hosted two awards presentations. The Arkansas Business Publishing Group, partnering with the League, Crew & Associates, and Crafton Tull, presented the annual Cities of Distinction Awards during the opening night banquet, Dec. 2. The DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support presented the 2015 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards (See page 20) during the Dec. 3 luncheon.



Hash

Update from D.C.

Rep. Steve Womack spoke to municipal leaders on Friday, Dec. 4 about several federal issues affecting cities and towns. He discussed in particular the status of the Remote Transactions Parity Act, the so-called e-fairness legislation that would provide a way to collect the local sales tax due on online purchases and which Womack, a lead sponsor, has championed for several years now. The League is on record supporting the legislation. It aims to even the playing field for brick-and-mortar businesses, which must collect and remit sales tax.



Womack

“We are probably closer today on e-fairness than we’ve ever been,” Womack said.

As a former mayor of Rogers, Womack brings a unique perspective to his job in Washington, D.C., he said.

“I’ve been where you are,” Womack said.

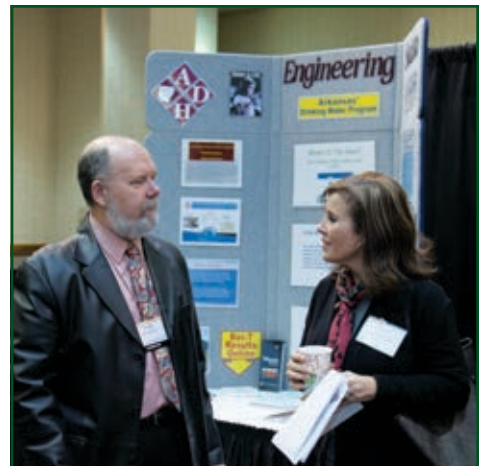
Sen. John Boozman was scheduled to address the League as well on Friday, but he had a late vote the previous night in Washington on the first multi-year highway bill to pass in a decade and was unable to make it to Arkansas in time. In his stead, Kathryn Gough, a member of his staff, read a statement from the Senator. Boozman supports the issue of e-fairness, he said.

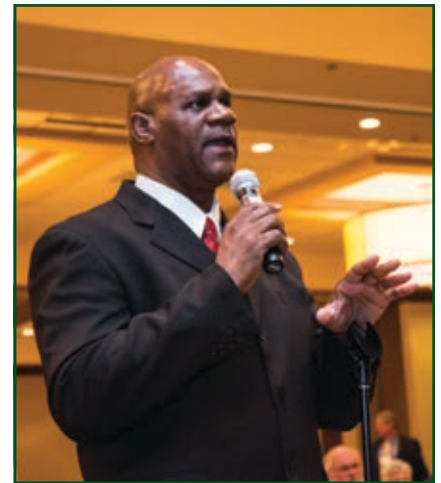
“I’m working to get this done to provide our Main Street merchants a level playing field,” he said.



Miller

2015 Fall Conference Snapshots





2015 Fall Conference Snapshots



PHOTOS BY JULIAN JAEGER AND ANDREW MORGAN.

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Family caregivers are often unrecognized heroes

By Robin McAtee, Ph.D., R.N.

You might be an unrecognized hero. If you're not a family caregiver, you likely know someone who is, will become one, or eventually will receive care from one. Unpaid family caregivers who make a meal for someone, change bed sheets, or help an elder move from bed to wheelchair are heroes engaged in acts of quiet compassion.

In Arkansas, there are nearly 500,000 unpaid family caregivers, many of whom are juggling those duties along with full-time jobs and other family responsibilities. Because of those sacrifices, aging parents, siblings, and other relatives for whom they provide care are able to stay in their homes for longer with loving family instead of in less familiar, more expensive care facilities.

Not only are unpaid family caregivers helping their loved ones live longer, they may even be producing cost savings for public and private insurers. About 34.2 million Americans have provided unpaid care to an adult age 50 or older in the last 12 months, according to *Caregiving in the U.S.*, a recent study sponsored by the National Alliance for Caregiving and the AARP Public Policy Institute. In 2009, caregiver services were valued at \$450 billion annually, up from \$375 billion in 2007, according to another study from the AARP Public Policy Institute. That trend line likely will continue upward. The oldest baby boomers will turn 70 in 2016, and the number needing caregivers is only growing.

When a loved one comes home from the hospital, family caregivers are the first line of defense in keeping them from having multiple readmissions and helping them avoid the expenses and problems that come with that.

To make sure those older boomers and others make a smoother transition from hospital to back home, the Arkansas Legislature recently enacted the Arkansas Lay Caregivers Act. It requires hospitals to provide a patient or the patient's legal guardian the chance to designate a caregiver. The hospital must notify the caregiver in advance of a patient's transfer or discharge, consult with the caregiver about the patient's aftercare needs and, if necessary, demonstrate tasks to the caregiver needed for good aftercare.

Home caregiving can be stressful, whether that caregiver is a paid professional or family member. Of those caregivers providing 21 or more hours of care per week, almost half found their roles emotionally stressful, 60 percent worked at other jobs, and 84 percent said they could use more information on or help with caregiving topics, according to *Caregiving in the U.S.*

The UAMS Schmieding Caregiver Training Program with sites across the state offers specialized training for family caregivers as well as paid caregivers, with classes in Springdale, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, El Dorado, and Little Rock. More than 1,200 family members have attended Schmieding workshops and more than 3,000 paid caregivers have graduated with certificates.

Though sometimes stressful, we know caregiving can be rewarding. One caregiver who has been through Schmieding training, Sue Carter of Elkins, has been caring for and learning from older adults for more than 15 years. In the course of her work, she has learned some things from those she cared for.

"It was amazing the life journeys the people I cared for had been on," she said. "They were able to share that, and I gained a lot of information I would not have learned otherwise. I saw a lot of faith. I saw strength and endurance."

While many types of heroes, such as veterans, police, fire fighters, nurses, and doctors may receive recognition from year to year, it's important to remember another kind of hero who may be in the residence of your parents, loved one, or family friend: the home caregiver.



Robin McAtee, Ph.D., R.N., is Associate Director of the Arkansas Aging Initiative, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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What are the Infrastructure Needs for the Municipalities of Arkansas?

In October 2015, the Arkansas Municipal League conducted the first ever statewide survey of municipal infrastructure needs. The League thanks the 157 cities and city-owned utilities for participating in the survey. Of the 151 cities (out of the 501 incorporated cities and towns) that participated, 80 percent of the state’s population that reside in our incorporated cities and towns are represented. As for the range of survey participants, the smallest city participating is Ozan in Hempstead County with a population of 85. Our largest participating city is Little Rock, with a population of 193,524.

An initial needs list was developed and presented to all League Advisory Councils and the League’s Executive Committee at meetings held during October. To better define a municipality’s infrastructure need, participants were asked to designate if the need was immediate, as in needed now; short term, as in needed in less than five years; and long term, as in needed in more than five years.

The table below summarizes the findings of each survey category.

Infrastructure Need Categories	Total \$ Needs
Sidewalks, Streets, Curbs, Gutters	\$1,553,092,082
Bridges	\$306,222,125
Wastewater Plants and Collection Systems	\$1,075,929,655
Water Plants and Distribution Systems	\$717,919,300
City-owned Utility Systems	\$108,996,565
Drainage Systems	\$743,085,000
Landfills and Solid Waste Management Systems	\$35,020,000
Buildings	\$270,429,115
Parks	\$715,721,297
Traffic Control Systems	\$32,251,000
Information Technology	\$69,531,525
Transportation (Bus and Airport Systems)	\$100,075,914
River Ports	\$59,535,000
Lighting	\$25,115,555
Public Safety Communications	\$67,603,000
Other (open-ended survey question)	\$418,474,000
Total Amount of Municipal Infrastructure Needs	\$6,299,001,133

To ensure all needs were obtained, the survey included an “other” category in the form of an open-ended question. The use of the open-ended survey question yielded \$418,474,000 in needs. Of particular interest is the need for high speed Broadband service in the amount of \$25,150,000. The need for Broadband is critical to Arkansas, given our state’s interest in attracting high

paying Information Technology jobs, further improving our education system, and developing online educational opportunities.

The top four infrastructure needs are noted below with total dollar and average dollar amounts:

Top Need Categories	Total \$ Needs	Average \$ Needs
Sidewalks, Streets, Curbs, Gutters	\$1,553,092,082	\$9,892,306
Wastewater Plants and Collection Systems	\$1,075,929,655	\$6,853,055
Drainage Systems	\$743,085,000	\$4,733,025
Water Plants and Distribution Systems	\$717,919,300	\$4,572,734

In examining the top four infrastructure needs, it’s fair to say that safe passage in our cities is essential for both our citizens and tourists in Arkansas. The conditions of a state’s sidewalks, streets, curbs and gutters lends to the quality of commerce taking place in the state. Currently, these infrastructure needs come in at the top of the list totaling \$1,553,092,082.

Wastewater plants and collection systems weighed in at second with a total of \$1,075,929,655. Many likely reasons including aging plants, growing populations requiring plant expansions, changing environmental regulations, and litigation lend to this number.

- Imagine our state, with tourism as a major industry, negatively impacted with news of polluted waterways from municipal wastewater discharges. An impact to our economy? Yes!
- What if any of our rivers or streams—most of which are destinations for tourists, outdoor enthusiasts, sportsmen, and our citizens—were reported as being polluted from municipal wastewater discharges. Look in your part of the state and ask “what if?” It could be devastating to your municipality.¹

When calculating the categorized amounts and the open-ended question, a total amount of \$6,299,001,133 is needed to satisfy municipal infrastructure needs. More importantly, the majority of survey respondents indicated their infrastructure needs were immediate or short term; meaning the bulk of the \$6.299 billion dollars is needed in less than five years.

¹ “The Arkansas tourism industry experienced a year of growth in 2014. This is based on the 2013 U.S. Travel Tourism Expenditure Impact Model. Travel expenditures increased from \$6,267,310,088 in 2013 to \$6,698,501,022 in 2014 (6.88%). The number of visitors increased from 24,610,236 in 2013 to 25,885,046 (5.18%).” (From www.arkansas.com - Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism – Economic Reports section)



Focusing on immediate and short-term needs, the table below shows the number and percentage of respondents with infrastructure needs within the next five years:

Need Categories	Immediate (Now)	Short Term (Less than 5 years)	Total Immediate and Short Term Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Sidewalks, Streets, Curbs, Gutters	55	56	111	70.70%
Parks	46	59	105	66.90%
Information Technology	37	57	94	59.90%
Drainage Systems	40	52	92	58.60%
Buildings	37	54	91	58.00%
Water Plants and Distribution Systems	41	45	86	54.80%
Wastewater Plants and Collection Systems	41	36	77	49.00%
Public Safety Communications	27	49	76	48.40%
Lighting	21	43	64	40.80%
Traffic Control Systems	24	24	48	30.60%
Bridges	18	29	47	29.90%
City-owned Utility Systems	10	19	29	18.50%
Transportation	7	18	25	15.90%
Land Fills	7	14	21	13.40%
River Ports	3	1	4	2.50%

One topic not considered in the survey is the potential for unfunded mandate needs, in particular wastewater treatment needs in Northwest Arkansas, pending Illinois River litigation is significant. Thanks to the City of Fayetteville for supplying information on a possible need for wastewater plant upgrades of some \$40,000,000 should tertiary plant treatment be required. Given the latest reported population (73,580) for Fayetteville, the cost would equate to \$543.62 per capita in Fayetteville.

Overall the survey represents a population of 1,448,717 city residents. That averages to be \$4,348 in needs per capita over the next five years or less.

When examining immediate and short-term infrastructure needs, 2015 state turnback estimates of \$65 per capita for the survey population equals \$94,166,605 per year. If turnback remains steady, municipalities can expect to receive a total of \$376,666,420 over the next four years. Given the same time frame, turnback funds cover only 60 percent of the total amount of Arkansas municipalities' immediate and short-term infrastructure needs.

Moving forward, the League will focus on three factors in conducting future municipal infrastructure surveys:


1. Allow survey respondents to report progress on needs' implementation.
2. Allow survey respondents to report new needs.
3. Allow municipalities that were unable to participate to do so. 



PHOTO BY JAMAL WILLIAMS.

Volunteer Communities of the Year honored at Fall Conference

The Department of Human Services Division of Community Services and Nonprofit Support each year honors 12 cities and towns that make volunteerism a priority, giving their time, energy, and resources to improve the quality of life in their municipalities. The winning Volunteer Communities of the Year for 2015 are Arkadelphia, Benton, Bentonville, Clarkridge, Clarksville, Fairfield Bay, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Greenbrier, Maumelle, Van Buren, and Vilonia. Their accomplishments are listed below. The DHS Division of Community Services and Nonprofit Support and the League honored the recipients at a Dec. 3 luncheon during the League’s 2015 Fall Conference in Springdale.

Arkadelphia

Just last year in this city of 10,714 over 10,040 volunteers had an economic impact of \$7,120,000 as they donated 367,934 hours of their time in service to others. Sometimes the community of Arkadelphia thinks they live in a bubble because community service has become their culture. From small expressions of uncounted, un-clocked hours of volunteerism by a local man stopping to change an elderly woman’s tire; to the student body of both universities mobilizing to paint porches, clean yards, repair fences for the sick and the shut-in to professional administrators, bankers, educators, and public officials serving on boards; all of these unsolicited volunteer initiatives are what make Arkadelphia a great place to call home.

Benton

This year 9,960 citizens of Benton volunteered a total of 244,885 hours. When talking about volunteering in Benton, one of the first organizations that have to be mentioned is the Churches Joint Council on Human Needs (CJCOHN). CJCOHN are several churches that have provided food, clothing, shelter, and solace to the needy of Saline County for 40 years. Roughly 150 volunteers give four hours per month. The Saline County Library also has a group of very dedicated volunteers. They offer a very exceptional array of programs designed to educate and entertain a wide variety of age groups. The library had 20 volunteers give 200 hours of service this year. Another noteworthy group of volunteers are the members of The Ralph Bunche Community Action Committee, who held their 13th Annual Back to School Picnic this year. Sponsors provided clothing, backpacks, and school supplies for needy children. The volunteers filled backpacks with supplies. These are just a few of the volunteer activities they have helped to strengthen the City of Benton.

Bentonville

This year 21,924 volunteers have contributed 485,215.18 volunteer hours. Each volunteer activity has a similar scope, which is to serve Bentonville residents and organizations through the selfless act of giving their time. All volunteer activities are important to the overall welfare of the community because community problems are interconnected and cyclical in nature. Bentonville's population continues to increase, whereas funding for social services and non-profit organizations has declined. As a result, volunteers continue to work to assist local nonprofits, private and public institutions to identify and address obstacles, solutions, and how to best serve the Bentonville community. Comparing the 2014 volunteer numbers to this year's, there are 2,692 more volunteers, up to 13.9 percent, and a 24.5 percent increase in hours at 95,749.18.

Clarkridge

This past year, 777 volunteers contributed 19,487 hours of volunteer service. Clarkridge citizens volunteer in a myriad of activities such as Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Literacy Council, Children's Christmas celebration, family food baskets and gifts for families, Santa working with community groups during the season, and the Fireman's Appreciation Dinner are just a few of the many activities Clarkridge citizens volunteer in. Clarkridge residents continue to improve the quality of life in Clarkridge through volunteerism and the pride with which they take in all that they do.

Clarksville

Reports from 2014 indicate a total of 1,950 active volunteers and a total of 136,500 volunteer hours. The Johnson County Retired Teachers Association continues to be involved in local public school education and in the well being of their communities. There are many hours the local law enforcement agencies serve the community through volunteerism. With the Clarksville Police Department's, Shop with a Cop program, it allows the local law enforcement to help underprivileged kids have a Merry Christmas by taking children shopping to purchase toys and meals for their families. The Junior Auxiliary of Clarksville reaches out to the community's neediest children, providing food, clothing, school supplies, books, Christmas gifts, and Easter baskets. These are just a few of the many activities that Clarksville has.

Fairfield Bay

In Fairfield Bay 577 volunteers have provided 193,262 hours of service. Because Fairfield Bay's volunteers provide services that the city could not afford on its own, the community does not have to apply for assistance from the state; an economic impact which proves that Arkansas is strong as a whole because of the many parts contributing to its success. Besides the unique wealth of volunteers, the community's greatest asset is the Greers Ferry Lake. The Corporal CG Bolden Veteran's Barge was an innovative idea for a project that utilizes the lake, their volunteer talent, and honors veterans. Volunteers deliver critical services for health, safety and welfare by volunteering at the fire station, Emergency Medical Service, Senior Center, American Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, and Veteran's Barge are just a few of the activities volunteers are involved in.

Fayetteville

An astonishing 681,418 hours of service was given by 65,549 volunteers. Arkansas continues to experience the prevalence of food insecurity; however organizations in Fayetteville and the region try to keep pace and make up the difference. Excess produce from private and community gardens find its way to their hungry neighbors. The Razorback Food Recovery captured over 17,000 pounds of excess food from campus retail locations, dining halls, and special events. Together, the Razorback Food Recovery and Full Circle Pantry distributed this food to the campus community and to area hunger relief agencies including the Salvation Army and Life Source International. In October, Razorback Food Recovery took their operation to Pomfret Dining Hall and plans to expand to all three dining halls. As of November, the group has recovered 20,000 pounds of food, including 12,000 pounds alone from Walmart's annual shareholders meeting in June. Through the many ways to connect and give back to others in this city, volunteerism certainly thrives in Fayetteville.

Fort Smith

The volunteers in Fort Smith are great at promoting goodness, improving human quality of life and producing a feeling of self-worth, and respect for people in the community. The best part is they do not expect anything in return; they do it because they love volunteering. Last year 19,065 volunteers donated 453,766 hours. Many of the volunteers are specifically trained in areas they work in such as medicine (Good Samaritan), education (Fort Smith Public Schools), and emergency rescue (Red Cross). Volunteerism is a vital part of the Fort Smith community, and the spirit of volunteerism in Fort Smith means a spirit of caring for others.

Greenbrier

As in most communities, the citizens of Greenbrier actively volunteer through familiar programs such as Adopt A Highway, Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree, food drives, Red Cross Blood Drives, and many more. This past year 2,348 volunteers served a total of 71,473 hours. The citizens of Greenbrier help feed the hungry in many different ways. They donate time, produce and canned goods to food pantries, cook meals for Bethlehem house, (the nearest homeless shelter), donate to summer backpack programs, and much more. In Greenbrier, citizens are very supportive and proud of their excellent public school system, and they show it. Churches feed the football team before home games, businesses provide free food for tailgate parties, parents volunteer with their school's Parent Teacher Organization, and Watchdog Dads ensure the safety of elementary school kids during drop-off and pick-up.

Maumelle

As the city grows, so does the strength of volunteerism within. This past year 14,898 volunteers donated 378,872 hours of volunteer service for their community in Maumelle. Dedication to others and a commitment to excellence are characteristics that keep volunteerism as a focus in Maumelle. Whether it is through the senior program called Counting on Each Other, the Maumelle Performing Arts, the Maumelle Chamber of Commerce, the Hometown Thanksgiving, the Youth Sports Leagues, or the Maumelle Friends of the Animals, Maumelle residents are eager to volunteer and give back to their community through these and other organizations. Serving others is often viewed as a way of life in Maumelle. Residents, volunteers, and organizations continue to give back to the community year after year helping to make Maumelle a strong unified community.

Van Buren

In Van Buren 10,672 volunteers contributed 248,102 hours of volunteer service this past year. Local volunteers served at the Hope Academy, which offers students attending the school full time certified on site alcohol and drug counselors, various support groups, and monthly parent meetings. There were 17 individuals who volunteered 356 hours at the Academy. The Crawford County Volunteers for Literacy teaches adults to read, teaches English as a second language, and assists those who have English as a second language to prepare for the examinations to obtain their U.S. Citizenship. It took 14 volunteers giving 8,149 hours of their time to teach adults the gift of reading. Changing lives is the mission of the Van Buren Kiwanis Club. Skating parties, school dances, golf tournaments, prayer luncheons, and flag placement at Fairview Cemetery are just a few of the events Kiwanis Club sponsors.

Vilonia

Vilonia volunteers and leaders help the city maintain their "normal" after suffering a second devastating tornado in 2014. Vilonia's citizens served 57,000 hours and have helped piece back together individual lives, as well as the entire community. Vilonia benefitted from an approximate 4,922 individual activities and projects to improve the community. These activities ranged from traditional community activities like organizing fundraisers; visiting school children; distributing clothes and food; and providing community education. Tornado-recovery activities that helped the community involved fundraising, cleanup, re-building, providing repairs, meetings, long-range planning, and grant writing. The Vilonia Disaster Recovery Alliance was in place and still doing work from the 2011 tornado that affected the city. This organization has managed and funded volunteer activities that have literally helped to put lives back together. 🏠



NOTICE:

Workers' Comp payroll reports due


It is mandatory that members of the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust submit their 2015 actual payroll to MLWCT by Feb. 15, 2016. As a member of MLWCT, non-compliant members (cities) will be assessed a 25 percent penalty based on premium. 🏠

Little Rock's Stodola elected NLC second VP

Little Rock Mayor and League Immediate Past President Mark Stodola was elected second vice president of the National League of Cities at November meeting in Nashville. This marks the first time in the NLC's 91-year history that a municipal leader from Arkansas has held one of the three officer positions in the organization, which consists of more than 2,000 municipalities nationwide.



The position puts Stodola in line to be NLC president in two years. Stodola has served on the NLC's executive committee for two years.

"The second vice president helps lead the direction and guidance for positions the National League of Cities takes on a national level," Stodola told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* for a Dec. 9 article. "For example, there are very direct implications on our city and every city in the state, one of them of course has to do with the protection of tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Both Democrats and Republicans are looking seriously at the issue of whether that should be capped to a certain amount or eliminated. That's a big, huge issue." 

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Stay active this winter

Wintertime does not have to bring your exercise routine to a grinding halt. Getting outside to exercise gives you a chance to breath fresh air and helps burn those excess calories consumed during the holidays. Working out in cold or inclement conditions, however, does require attention to issues that don't come into play during warmer seasons. Here are some tips to address some of those concerns so that you can exercise safely and enjoyably.

Dress the part

An old Norwegian saying sums it up: There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. Wintertime can be a wonderful time to get outside, but not if your clothing is not up to the task. Instead of wearing a single heavy garment, dressing in layers of clothing will provide more warmth and protection from the elements. Layering also allows you to control your temperature more effectively. Should you become overheated or begin to sweat during activity or exercise, you can remove or open up a layer to ventilate. As you cool down, zip up or add a layer. A base layer made from a synthetic fabric, such as Capilene or Coolmax, should be worn next to the body. It keeps the skin dry by "wicking" moisture away. Next, an insulating layer of wool or synthetic fleece traps air to keep you warm. When conditions dictate, an outer shell layer that is both windproof and waterproof can be worn. Ideally, this garment also "breathes" to allow moisture to escape from the body. Gore-Tex is the trade name for one of the most popular fabrics with these characteristics. Wear a hat and gloves or mittens with the thermometer plunges. Consider buying exercise shoes a half-size or one size larger than usual to allow for thick thermal socks or an extra pair of regular socks.

Warm up first

It easier to go out into the cold if you warm up inside first. Try jogging in place or doing jumping jacks for five to 10 minutes prior to going outside. Stop your warm-up before you start sweating in order to avoid evaporative heat loss once outside.

Don't push it

Inclement weather conditions can make exercising outside risky. If there is ice or snow on the ground don't worry about how fast or far that you are going. Walking can be made safer from a traction standpoint if using a more heavily lugged trail running shoe or a product designed for traction on ice or snow such as Yaktrax.

Be noticed

The shorter days of winter means that you may be working out in the dark. Find well-lit locations to work out, preferably away from traffic. A lighted track at a nearby school is ideal. By wearing brighter, reflective clothing, motorists will be able to see you better. Carry a flashlight or a headlamp so that you can see where you're going. Leave the ear buds and your favorite music at home. Losing your ability to hear clearly as well having your sight restricted by the dark increases your vulnerability.

Find a friend

Making a commitment to work out with a friend can help to keep you from finding excuses to not exercise as well as making the workout more of a social experience. In particularly bad weather conditions having a friend to "share the misery" can make the experience seem less onerous and can provide a margin for safety. Ironically, sometimes the most challenging experiences can end up being the most memorable.

Go indoors

In certain weather conditions, it's better to work out indoors rather than risking injury, hypothermia, or frostbite. Most gyms offer a variety of exercise equipment that will cross over to outdoor activities. Walkers or runners should feel at home on a treadmill. Cyclists can spin on a stationary bike. Going to the gym also offers the opportunity to lift weights or participate in an exercise class. If you stay at home, exercising to a workout DVD or home exercise equipment can substitute for an outdoor work out. Another option is to walk in an indoor mall or shopping center. Just make sure to avoid the candy store!

For most people, winter is not the best time to try to achieve new levels of fitness or to prepare for a major athletic event. By the same token, winter should not be seen as the time to rest on one's laurels until the days get longer and warmer. Extra attention may need to be paid to clothing, weather conditions, and the mode of exercise but the benefits of staying active will far exceed any inconvenience. As the Nike ad says, "Just Do It."

If you have any questions about staying active this winter, please log into your account and send us your question. We are here to help.


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NLC honors Wasson for longtime service to cities



The League's Director of Operations Ken Wasson was honored with the John G. Stutz Award by the National League of Cities at its 2015 Congress of Cities, held in November in Nashville, Tenn. The Stutz Award honors individuals who have served a total of 25 years or more on the staff of a state municipal league, state league risk pool, and/or the NLC.

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman honored Wasson's 25 years with the League during the League's 81st Convention in June, noting his tireless devotion to serving Arkansas's cities and towns.

"Ken is often the first one at the office in the morning and the last one to leave in the evening," Zimmerman said. "His coordination of the League's convention, conferences, and certification classes has been outstanding." 



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El Dorado Mayor Frank Hash, League 2015-2016 District 4 vice president, stands at one of four new entrance signs that welcome visitors to the Southwest Arkansas hub.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

League District 4 VP builds on El Dorado's strengths

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

El Dorado, in Union County in Southwest Arkansas, has long been an anchor in that part of the state, a mix of old and new, and Mayor Frank Hash, the League's 2015-2016 District 4 vice president, works hard to build on both.

Hash was born in El Dorado and graduated from high school here in 1962. He went on to earn a degree at Ouachita Baptist University in nearby Arkadelphia, and went immediately to flight school for helicopters. He then headed to Vietnam to fly Medivac. He ended up staying in the military for 26 years, working all over the world.

Hash returned to El Dorado to retire in 1992.

"I tried to stay retired for about a year, but it didn't work."

He went back to work, first for the state, then for the Union County District Court, after which he tried once again to retire.

The city has worked very hard over the last several decades to ensure its downtown thrives. It hosts numerous events each year, including the popular El Dorado Music Fest.

"I attended one too many Republican Party meetings, and first thing you know my name was on the ballot and bingo bango here I am, five years later."

Supporters thought Hash's military background meant he'd be a great fit for the job of mayor, but this kind of public service is very different from the military, he has discovered.

"There are some common denominators in there, but in the military, usually one or two people decide





EL DORADO INSIDER'S GUIDE, PHOTO BY DERO SANFORD

what's going to happen and everybody else, gung-ho, makes it happen," Hash says. "Here—no such thing."

El Dorado has an excellent city council, Hash says, that communicate and mesh well, even if there's a "bump or two here and there." He works with 10 commissions, with about 85 people that have a say-so in all aspects of the city's operation.

"Glad to have 'em. Not much gets by 85 different folks."

El Dorado has struggled like most cities in Arkansas with a loss of jobs and people over the years, but the city is fortunate to have several industries that "essentially can't be exported," Hash says, citing the Lion Oil refinery; El Dorado Chemical, which is in the process of implementing a \$700 million expansion; and Clean Harbors, a hazardous waste disposal operation.

"Although we've taken some sizable hits, we're still healthy and steadily making progress with things."

The city is also home to three Fortune 500 companies: Murphy USA, Murphy Oil, and Deltic Timber.

"They contribute tremendously to this city."

El Dorado is also blessed with a thriving, beautiful downtown, and over the years the city has made it a priority, devoting tax dollars to it and working closely with businesses to ensure that it continues to be a destination. Anchored by the annual El Dorado Music Festival, which

brings in major acts and thousands of visitors each year, the city hopes to increase the number of events it hosts. To that end, private venture Festivals and Events LLC is currently undertaking a major effort to repurpose several existing buildings, build a large entertainment center, revitalize the classic Rialto Theater, and more.

Outside of downtown, the city has worked over the years to improve its amenities, Hash says, with 12 city parks, a pool, a walking trail, a municipal golf course, and an \$18 million conference center at South Arkansas Community College. A hotel will soon be built near the conference center, which will greatly increase the city's capacity to host more events, he says.

At the crossroads of highways 82 and 167, "we're a regional hub," Hash says. "We're trying to play on our strengths. There are a lot of things that I think are going to come together quite nicely within the next two, three years."



El Dorado's classic Rialto Theater is currently under renovation as part of a larger project to create a true entertainment district downtown.

Beyond improving its many assets, the city is working to improve its more basic amenities and services. They're trying to find ways to improve the busy Hwy. 167 corridor without disrupting the many businesses along the route, Hash says. And like most cities, El Dorado is coping with aging water and sewer infrastructure, and they're on their way to upgrading, he says.

"It's something you don't see, but when the sewer isn't working you hear about it. We have a strategy now—not to repair but to replace. It'll take a long time, but you'll never get there until you start." 🏠



Corporate mainstays like Murphy Oil, which is nearing completion on a new headquarters just off the downtown square, have been very important to El Dorado's success over the years.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 265 of the 2014 Fiscal Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2015 projects to the Bureau of Legislative Research. The reporting deadline is Jan. 30, 2016.

You can access Act 265 and the required reporting document online at:
www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014F/Acts/Act265.pdf.

Please take note of Section 13 of Act 265:

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TURNBACK REPORTING.

Each calendar year, beginning with calendar year 2013, each county and municipality receiving total highway revenues and highway severance turnback per A.C.A. § 27-70-207 and A.C.A. § 26-58-124 of \$2,000,000 or more shall report to the House

Public Transportation Committee and the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee indicating how highway revenues and highway severance turnback funds were utilized. The report shall include a general ledger accounting of the city or county street/road fund. The report shall also include the percentage of the street/road fund that is comprised of state funds. Further, the report shall include details of each contracted project including type and description of project, location of project and total amount of money spent on the project. HB1054 01-27-2014 09:18:30 WLC013

The report shall be submitted annually no later than January 30th for the previous year's projects.

Please ensure this message is forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Direct all questions regarding this reporting requirement to:

Estella Smith, Administrator
Committee Staff Services
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-537-9192 or smithe@blr.arkansas.gov

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2016 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 2015 Fall Conference, the 82nd Annual Convention, or the 2017 Land Use Seminar.

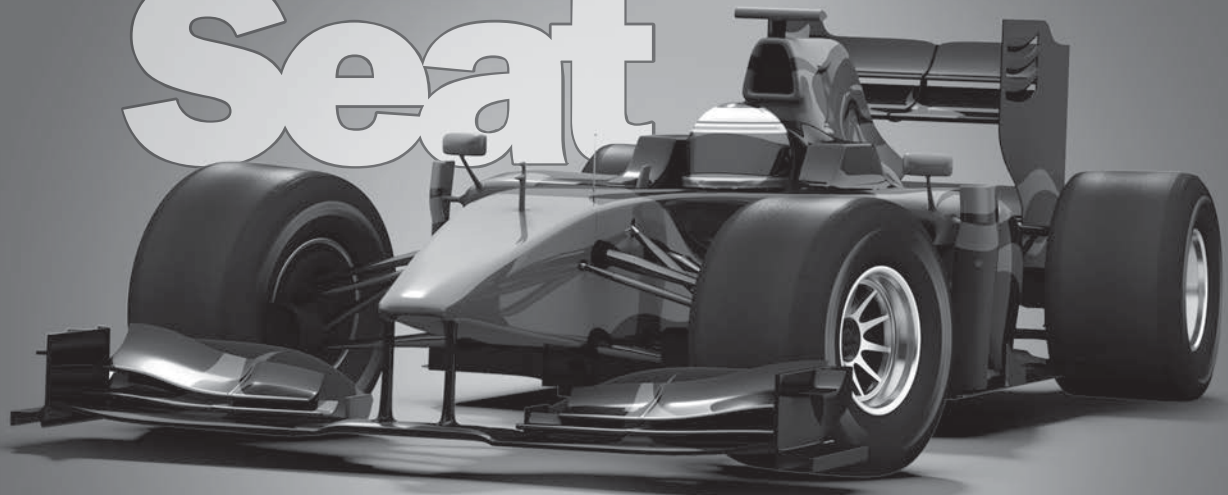
The Program is for Arkansas mayors, city managers, city directors and aldermen, city recorders, recorder/treasurers, city clerks, clerk/treasurers.

The next workshop is:

- City Government 101: Who Does What at City Hall (5 core curriculum hours), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 13, 2016, at League headquarters.

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

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Contact Tammie Williams at
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e-mail twilliams@arml.org.



MHBF, ACA reporting seminars prep members for 2016

The Municipal Health Benefit Fund on Nov. 18 hosted a seminar at the League's North Little Rock headquarters to share with its participants information on MHBF plan changes for the coming year, prescription benefit updates, obesity treatment plans, and more. The seminar also featured a brief overview of the fast-approaching IRS reporting requirements for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), presented by the League's new partner, Five Points.

Starting in 2016, all municipal employers must file information returns for the ACA with the IRS, and the League has partnered with Five Points to help MHBF members with this process. Five Points has in the last several months conducted five seminars to help our cities

and towns comply. Five Points stressed that even if an employer (municipal entity) is not an applicable larger employer (ALE) it must submit the appropriate forms to the IRS. The deadlines are fast approaching. The return and transmittal forms must be filed with the IRS before Feb. 28, 2016 (March 31 if filed electronically).

For more information, contact Five Points at 800-435-5023, www.fivepointsict.com, or contact your certified public accountant, tax attorney, or American Fidelity Assurance Representative Charles Angel at 501-690-2532 or via email at Charles.Angel@americandfidelity.com. See also the article "ACA tax reporting requirements for the 2015 tax year" in the November 2015 issue of *City & Town*, page 40. 🏛️

State Aid Street Committee expanding project criteria



For the 2017 funding cycle, the State Aid Street Committee will begin funding design projects. The Committee will also begin accepting project requests from second-time applicants. For the first three years of the program, the Committee had given priority to first-time requests, and it only funded overlay projects as opposed to projects requiring design work.

The Committee will also begin to employ a new project rating system. The purpose of the rating system is to develop a procedure for fairly assessing the proposed projects. Because the rating system is in the early stages of development with further adjustments most likely to occur, the results will not be binding upon the Committee members. Each Committee member will be free to accept or reject the results of the rating system as they see fit. The new project rating system will not become a Rule of the Committee until the Committee and the State Aid Division of the Highway Department are satisfied that it properly assesses each proposed project. 🏛️

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Lengthy ordinances should be published in full

Opinion: 2015-101

Requestor: Sue Scott, State Representative

Pursuant to provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §14-55-206(a)(1)(A), regarding publication of municipal ordinances, is it sufficient to publish just a one- or two-page ordinance and not have to incur the expense of publishing lengthy attachments and exhibits? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the answer is “no,” unless the lengthy attachments and exhibits referenced in the question fall within the class of rules, regulations, or technical codes permitted to be adopted by reference under Ark. Code Ann. § 14-55-206(b) or § 14-55-207.

For full Attorney General opinions online go to www.arkansasag.gov/opinions.

CALENDAR

City Government 101: Who Does What at City Hall

January 13, 2016

Arkansas Municipal League headquarters
North Little Rock, AR

CITY ATTORNEYS

The ACAA will hold its Winter CLE program Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, at the League’s North Little Rock headquarters. As in the past, the ACAA Winter CLE will consist of six hours of CLE, including one hour of Ethics.



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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, JOHN VACHON (1914-1975) PHOTOGRAPHER.

Housing: changing views—changing issues

By Jim von Tungeln

In America, urban planners have concerned themselves with housing since European settlers first landed on its shores. The concerns have evolved, as has our approach to planning itself. The need for shelter is a basic one, so it is good that we consider past and present issues as well as our current thinking about them. The results may surprise us.

Early urban planning concerns by European settlers stayed simple. They centered on the need for protection against the original inhabitants of what is now the United States. Planners, such as they were, viewed a home as a rudimentary shelter, behind walls, without frills, or fancy adornments—a place where one could “get in out of the cold.”

As investors in the new world created planned settlements, they included provisions for parks and open space to make room for increasingly spacious and attractive homes. The resultant neighborhoods remain favored tourist spots today, but are not known for affordable housing.

Eventually, cities of size and substance emerged. This brings us to the stage of our history we might term “urban abhorrence” as opposed to urban planning. Many Americans agreed with the sentiments of third president, Thomas Jefferson who, in a letter to fourth president, James Madison, wrote, “I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe.” This was hardly an endorsement of urban housing.

Never one to make sure he wasn’t misunderstood, he also opined, “The mobs of great cities add just so much to support of pure government as sores do to the strength of the human body.” As observed by Leonardo Vazquez, AICP in the February 20, 2006, edition of the magazine *Plantizen*: “... Jefferson was able to hard-wire an anti-urban bias into the culture of the United States. Consider the U.S. Constitution. What power does it give

to cities and towns? None... In fact, the Constitution doesn't even mention cities and towns...."

So, dense urban centers remained largely despised and neglected until the turn of the 20th Century when the problems of crowded housing, poverty, and squalor appeared in such works as *How the Other Half Lives*, a seminal book by written by Jacob Riis and studied by progressive politicians like President Theodore Roosevelt. With such quotes as "The slum is the measure of civilization," Riis and others raised the conscience of America. At the same time, the so-called "City Beautiful Movement," spawned by the grandeur of the Columbian Exposition of 1893, convinced many in our country that cities could be appealing places in which to live.

Skip forward past the Great Depression and World War Two, and we come to a time in which housing became a permanent part of urban planning. The Housing Act of 1949 (42 USC §§ 1441-1490r [1994]) sought the "realization as soon as feasible of the goal of a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family."

The standard for housing was "decent, safe, and sanitary." We set a goal that a family was expected to spend no more than 30 percent of its adjusted income for housing costs. This proved laudable but difficult to achieve, as reports now show that the number of renters paying upward of 50 percent of their income for housing has risen by 2.5 million since the recent recession and 6.7 million over this decade.

Housing concerns thus lead us in new directions, both from a personal and planning perspective. Homeowners increasingly view their home as an investment that must be protected. At the same time, neighborhood revitalization becomes more difficult. As Jay Hall, RM, one of Arkansas's premier residential real estate appraisers observes, "New home buyers of today want a turn-key property. They are not like the generation before, where one took pride in buying a 'fixer-upper.'"

Such expectations and choices no doubt contributed to the "housing bust" of recent years. As of the first quarter of 2015, the U.S. rate of negative equity among mortgaged homeowners was 15.4 percent. The impact of this on existing neighborhoods is another issue for planners and residents alike.

Meanwhile, new subdivision residents protect themselves by stringent private codes but seek governmental assistance in keeping commercial development and lower-priced developments from appearing nearby. Economic segregation provides another set of challenges for those planning a stable urban environment.

Added to the present direction away from governmental action in improving life, current trends don't bode well for older, existing, neighborhoods, particularly

in cities far away from high-growth areas. Some in our state have seen such little housing construction in the last 20 years that no homebuilders currently practice the craft in their localities.

Other areas prosper, but see different challenges looming. Troy Galloway, AICP, community and economic development director of Bentonville, provided the following report:

"Bentonville continues to experience strong residential growth adding around 1,200 to 1,400 new residents per year. This growth requires in the neighborhood of 400 to 500 new residential units per year. The majority of this new housing remains suburban in nature on quarter to half-acre size lots with values ranging predominately from \$250,000 to \$300,000. This is hardly in the affordable range for most middle income wage earners."

This raises the issue of where entry-level workers will find housing in the future, an issue in other areas of planning as well. For example, if first-time workers cannot live where they work, what sort of transportation system will we need to get them there? It, and the other challenges outlined above, suggest that the solutions require more analysis than we've seen before, including how to ensure a stable housing mix.

Bentonville finds itself fortunate also in the area of rental housing, adding anywhere from 300 to 500 units some years. Galloway adds: "This cyclical nature allows time for the new units to be absorbed into the market even where our multi-family vacancy rates average less than five percent typically. Prices range widely from around \$500 per month on the lower end to upwards of \$1,200 for a few of the higher end products."

These figures reflect sound planning. Many contentious planning and zoning battles of recent years involve multi-family housing development, the largest portion of it rental properties. With a sustainable rate of home ownership in our country just above 60 percent, the resistance to rental housing poses one of the most serious issues in planning for affordable housing. In many of our cities, the number of poor renters is growing, but the supply of new affordable housing is dropping.

We may gather, then, that housing issues depend largely on location. And, as our oft-quoted public administration adage called "Miles Law" might apply to housing: "Where you stand depends on where you sit." We should all hope to sit in healthy cities.



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.



A New Center for Transit in Jonesboro

They say all roads lead to Rome, but in Jonesboro, all bus routes lead to the new JET Regional Transfer Center.

The JET Regional Transfer Center (RTC) was recently opened to serve the needs of the passengers, drivers, and buses that are a part of public transit in Northeast Arkansas. The RTC is designed to serve more than just Jonesboro's city transit service, JET. Located at the intersection of Caraway Road and Matthews Avenue, it is at the center of public transit in the area.

JET has enjoyed tremendous growth in the past few years. The expansion from three fixed routes to five fixed routes in 2014 created a need to reconfigure the route system as well. In January 2014 a new 'hub' route plan was introduced. One stop on all five routes is the hub. That gives passengers the opportunity to transfer from any route to any route and easily reach their destination.

Conversations about the need for a dedicated facility that would serve as a JET hub began in 2011. As with any project of this kind, funding was one of the first questions that needed to be answered. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts to obtain grants for the construction of the facility, a new approach was developed.

The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) provides funding for public transit systems. JET receives funding through the Section 5307 grant program dedicated to small urban transit systems. That money was available to spend on capital projects for the transit

system. The only thing Jonesboro needed was the matching funds.

Several years earlier, the intersection of Caraway and Matthews was reconfigured after the railroad grade crossing just north of the intersection was closed, and traffic re-routed to the newly-completed Marion Berry Overpass to the west. The land on the northwest corner of the intersection was vacant, due to an old fire station being demolished by the city. That 1-acre lot was the ideal size, and the ideal location for the new hub for JET.

Real estate at a major intersection located near the center of town is valuable. And the value of the land could be used to provide the 'match' required to obtain the Federal funds needed to construct the JET Regional Transfer Center. The City Council approved the plan in the fall of 2013, and the Request for Proposals for architecture was sent out in early 2014.

Cromwell Architects was awarded the design contract for the facility, and architect John Mixon started work immediately. By the end of 2014, the designs were ready, and bids were let for the construction. Bailey Contractors won the job, with a bid of \$1.036 million. Construction began in April of 2015.

The original completion date was set for October 1. As with many projects, there were some unforeseen obstacles to overcome. Original surveys did not reveal an instability in the soil of the site. Old fill dirt had to be removed and new, more stable fill material brought in to support the constant heavy vehicle traffic. Design

elements such as signage needed to be redone to match new JET branding. Other construction projects in the city reduced the available labor force for the project. These were just a few of the things that the team had to deal with as the weeks went by. But despite the challenges, the facility was ready for its Grand Opening on October 23, 2015; only three weeks from its originally planned date of substantial completion.

The JET Regional Transfer Center is the first dedicated transit facility to serve the public in Jonesboro. The RTC serves the city's transit system, as well as provides facilities for other regional transit systems to transfer passengers to and from JET. The facility is designed to accommodate up to eight 60-passenger coaches at one time.

The RTC provides easily accessible waiting space, rest rooms, and driver support areas for JET. It serves not only the riders of JET and other multi-passenger vehicles, it also provides others a place to interact with JET transit services. Pedestrians, bicycle riders, taxi passengers, and other transit passengers can all use the facility to catch a JET bus. As part of incorporating the RTC into the system, JET is also implementing new routes to better serve its ridership.

Future uses for the RTC include providing rural public transit systems, like the Jonesboro/Craighead County-based Northeast Arkansas Transit System (NEAT) and the Black River Area Development transit system (BRAD) that operates from Pochahontas, a place for their passengers to connect to the JET system. Also, discussions have been held with Greyhound to have the RTC to eventually become its stop in Jonesboro. Moreover, with the proximity of the RTC to the Jonesboro Regional Airport, JET could help air passengers flying into Jonesboro connect with rural and intercity buses that can carry them to neighboring cities and towns.

The JET Regional Transfer Center was designed to be an iconic, economical, and functional facility. It shares design elements with many other public buildings in Jonesboro, as well as a commitment to the safety and security of those using the facility. Public transit is growing in Jonesboro, as it is everywhere. With its new Regional Transfer Center, JET now has the hub from which to grow its services to the city, and beyond.



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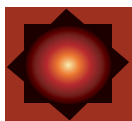
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Reminder: By Resolution is the Best Way to Pass Your Budget

Cities and towns in Arkansas are legally obligated to pass their city's or town's budget on or before February 1 of each year.

Budgets in Mayor-Council Municipalities

14-58-201. Annual submission.

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

14-58-202. Adoption of budget.

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

14-58-203. Appropriations and changes.

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

Budgets in City Administrator-Director Municipalities

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-117(6)

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

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-122

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

the board be appropriated to another purpose subject to the following exceptions:

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

Budgets in City Manager-Director Municipalities

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-120


- (6) He or she [the City Manager] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption;

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-140

- (a)(1) Any municipality organized and operating under the city manager form of government may authorize the mayor of the municipality to have the following duties and powers if approved by the qualified electors of the municipality at an election called by the municipal board of directors by referendum or by the qualified electors of the municipality by initiative:
- (E) The power to prepare and submit to the board of directors for its approval the annual municipal budget;

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-125

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

A sample Budget Resolution, can be accessed via www.arml.org under the "Legal FAQs" page for your convenience. Please call or email the League with any questions you may have. 

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Reminder to All City Councils Regarding First Council Meeting of 2016

The 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature in 2015, via Act 235, amended A.C.A. 14-43-501 regarding the organization at the beginning of a new year of the governing bodies of cities and towns.

ACA § 14-43-501. Organization of governing body

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



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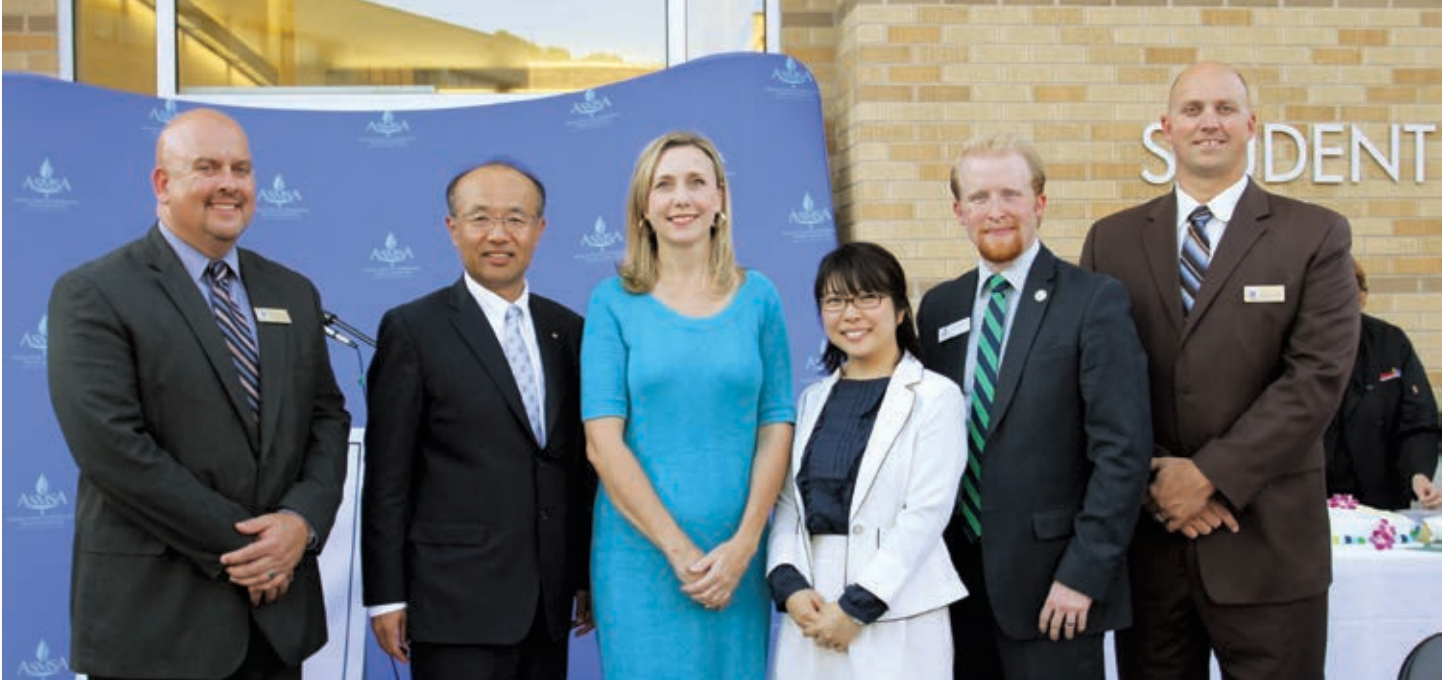
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From left, Lakeside Superintendent Shawn Cook, Hanamaki International Exchange Association President Fumiaki Sasaki, Hot Springs Sister City Executive Director Mary Neilson, Japanese language instructor Aozora Ishizaki, ASMSA Director Corey Alderice, and Lakeside Assistant Superintendent Bruce Orr.

Hot Springs develops Japanese language program with sister city

By Sherman Banks

The Hot Springs Sister City Program began in 1993 when a delegation from Hanamaki, Japan, searched the United States and found that Hot Springs had all of the attributes of a city with which they wanted to partner. Hot Springs reciprocated, and today their relationship has grown to include exchanges in culture, education, industry, commerce, and youth that furthers the dream of citizen diplomacy envisioned by President Eisenhower when he formed sister cities in 1956.

In 2013 Bruce Orr, assistant superintendent of the Lakeside School District, traveled to Hanamaki as part of the Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation Teacher Scholarship Program. In the summer of 2013 Corey Alderice, director of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, traveled with a group of students from ASMSA as part of program funded by The Japan Foundation to visit and experience the culture and education of the city of Hanamaki and the country of Japan.

The two Arkansas educators were duly impressed by the depth of language education offered in Japanese schools, and they began to work toward bringing a similar curriculum to Hot Springs area schools.

The Hot Springs National Park Sister City Program assisted in facilitating the application for a \$30,000 grant to ASMSA from the Japan Foundation. This grant affords the opportunity for the students at ASMSA and

the Lakeside School District to introduce the Japanese language and culture into the school districts of Hot Springs. Ms. Aozora Ishizaki, an instructor from Kita High School in Japan, was selected earlier this year with plans to implement the curriculum for the 2015-16 school years.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Arkansas students to develop their understanding of the Japanese language and the culture of Japan,” said Mary Neilson, executive director of the Hot Springs Sister City Program. “For 22 years, Hot Springs’ ties with our sister city of Hanamaki have grown stronger and deeper, along with both cities’ appreciation of the culture and people of both cities.”

To celebrate the new initiative, Hot Springs hosted a reception in November. The special guests at the reception included The Honorable Masami Kinefuchi, Consul General; Fumiaki Sasaki, President of the Hanamaki International Exchange Association; two teachers from Hanamaki Kita High School; and Japanese instructor, Aozora Ishizaki.



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.

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Survey: Most Americans want “e-tailers” to collect sales taxes

Seventy percent of registered voters would support a federal law requiring online-only sellers to collect sales tax at the time of purchase, according to a recent ICSC survey. This is the fourth year in a row that Americans from across the political spectrum have expressed overwhelming support for e-fairness legislation to close the online sales tax loophole.

“The shopping center industry is a premier driver of economic activity and one way our centers accomplish this is through the collection and remittance of sales taxes, which provide communities the revenue they need to fund critical municipal services,” said Tom McGee, president and CEO of ICSC. “It’s time to level the playing field so that online-only sellers compete under the same rules.”

The survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted in September also found that a vast majority of Americans think collecting sales tax from online-only vendors at the time of purchase is easier than the current system of self-reporting.

Among the survey’s key findings: Seven out of 10 respondents said they support federal legislation that would require online-only vendors to collect sales tax at the time of purchase. Also, 80 percent of respondents said they think it would be easier to collect sales tax from online-only vendors at the time of purchase. Slightly more than half of all survey respondents said they think that the current uneven playing field is inherently unfair and gives online-only vendors a clear, competitive advantage. And nine out of 10 respondents said local retailers are important to their communities’ economic health and prosperity.

“Year after year voters continue to voice overwhelmingly strong support for federal legislation that closes the online sales tax loophole and makes sure that all retailers are free to compete for customers and sales without the federal government picking winners and losers in the marketplace,” said Betsy Laird, senior vice president of Global Public Policy for ICSC. “Americans have spoken; it’s time to pass e-fairness legislation.”

In June, Congressmen Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Steve Womack (R-AR) introduced legislation called HR 2775, known as The Remote Transaction Parity Act (RTPA), to close the online sales tax loophole and level the playing field for bricks-and-mortar retail stores that compete with online retailers. Ask your House Representative to sponsor HR 2775, The Remote Transactions Parity Act.

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

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

Are you moving your office?

For several weeks, we have been preparing to relocate the North Little Rock a'TEST consultants MRO and accounting offices, and packing up the scores of boxes and filing cabinets full of stored copies of drug test results. The packing and stacked boxes have produced the question cited above: "Are you moving your office?" We have relocated the MRO office to a space adjacent to our downstairs clinic location and moved the accounting office to an office-warehouse facility away from the downtown North Little Rock location. This decision was made as a means to address security and safety concerns.

Some employers require us to keep drug-testing results for multiple years—some well beyond the required retention time that the Department of Transportation mandates. This means we had become overloaded with critical hard paper copies of documents that need to be properly stored. Most documents are scanned and stored electronically; however, some auditors and employers don't want to rely solely on electronic copies, but instead prefer to have the original paper copies available.

The wood-frame, North Little Rock office was not the most ideal location for storing the paper files, so we located a small office-warehouse in a complex near our home away from the downtown area that provides excellent security. The walls are concrete, the roof is metal, the space is alarmed, and there is limited access to the warehouse storage area. John Carter and Bobby Sims have moved their offices to this site. Our phones are connected with the downtown offices and you will have the same access to them at their new site. Because of the limited space at the new office, meetings with John or Bobby need to be scheduled to be held at the a'TEST office in North Little Rock.



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.

a'TEST branching out

Several years ago, we decided to form two other corporations that were to be specialty testing companies. We haven't made use of those companies—DrugTestReports.Com and ReportATest—until now. Jeff Sims has become the owner of DrugTestReports.Com and he will be expanding the company in the specimen collection area on a national basis. All other services (background checks, laboratory and quick testing services, training, driver qualification files, and MVR management) will remain services provided through a'TEST. a'TEST has the advantage of a long-term history and being a certified female-owned business. Naturally, the two companies will work closely with the other. At this time Jeff is the only person affiliated with DrugTestReports.Com; however, it is our hope that his business will grow. You will not notice any changes in your services with the implementation of this new company. The a'TEST accounting staff will continue to handle the billing for both companies and all our existing staff will remain available to assist you.

We want to thank you for so many years of working together. This has been an amazing journey! Some of our clients began drug testing with us during our tenure at UAMS—over 30 years ago! Saying "thank you" to such wonderful, loyal friends seems a small way to express our gratitude.

Congratulations to Jeff Sims for becoming a commissioner on the Substance Abuse Professional Administrators Certifying Commission. This is a huge and very recognizable honor in our industry. Additionally, Jeff has received a contract with the Department of Energy to audit contractors' substance abuse policy compliance while working on energy projects. Our company is very proud of Jeff's accomplishments and his continued recognition as a leader in our industry.

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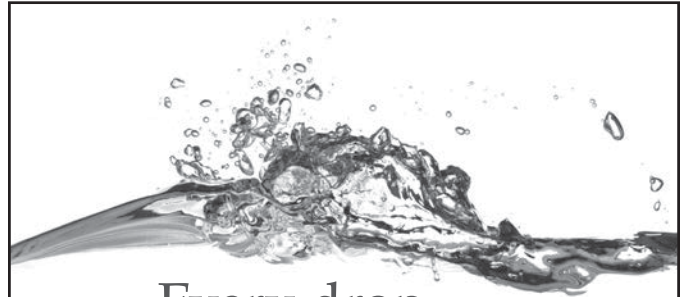
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State and Local Legal Center advocates to the Supreme Court for local governments

By Lisa Soronen

Since 1983 the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) has filed amicus curiae briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the “Big Seven” national organizations representing the interests of state and local government. The Big Seven groups include: the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and the International City/County Management Association. The International Municipal Lawyers Association and the Government Finance Officers Association also belong to the SLLC.

State leagues participate in the SLLC through the National League of Cities. Many state leagues contribute financially on an annual basis to support the SLLC.

In 2014 the Arkansas Municipal League defended a high-speed police chase case before the Supreme Court. The SLLC filed an amicus brief supporting the League.

The SLLC files an amicus brief in a Supreme Court case where three of the seven members of the SLLC want a brief written and two organizations do not veto participation. Each SLLC member decides whether to sign onto an SLLC brief after reviewing its contents.

To date, the SLLC has filed over 300 Supreme Court briefs. The SLLC generally files briefs in cases involving federalism and preemption and in other cases where the interests of state and local government are at stake.

It is not unusual for the Court to cite or quote an SLLC brief in an opinion or discuss a SLLC brief at oral argument.

Lisa Soronen is the executive director of the SLLC. She is a resource to the Big Seven on the Supreme Court. The SLLC also offers moot courts to attorneys arguing state and local government cases before the Supreme Court. Each year the SLLC offers Supreme Court Review, Preview, and Mid-Term webinars and articles focusing on cases from the term affecting state and local government.

Lisa also writes about Supreme Court cases affecting cities on the NLC blog, the Weekly, and the Federal Advocacy Update.

To learn more about the SLLC and to read the briefs the SLLC has recently filed, visit the SLLC’s website at www.statelocal.org. Follow the SLLC on Twitter for up-to-date information on Supreme Court grants and decisions affecting state government: www.twitter.com/sllcscotus.



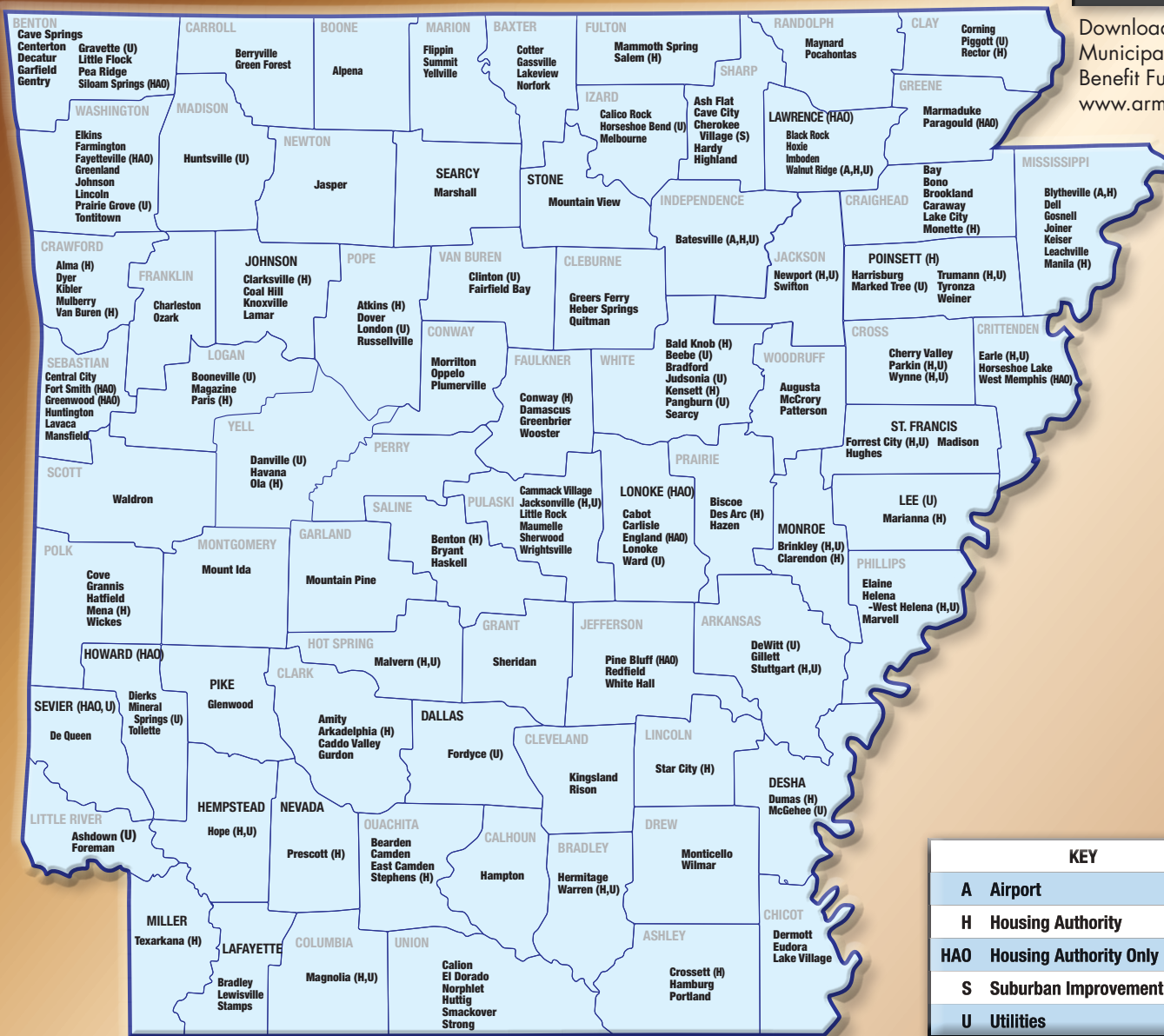
Lisa Soronen is Executive Director, State & Local Legal Center. Contact Lisa at lsoronen@sso.org.



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Boston Mountain Solid Waste	Prairie Grove	Little Rock Port Authority	Little Rock	Ozark Regional Transit	Ozark
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	Lonoke	Little Rock Workforce Investments	Little Rock	Piggott Community Hospital	Piggott
Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force	De Queen	Local Police & Fire Retirement System	Little Rock	Regional Recycling & Waste Reduction District	Pulaski County
Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney	Russellville	Magnolia Regional Medical Center	Magnolia	SE AR Economic Development District	Pine Bluff
Fifth Judicial District	Russellville	Mena Regional Health System	Mena	Sevier County Water Association	De Queen
Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water	Lonoke and Prairie Counties	Montgomery County Nursing Home	Mount Ida	Third Judicial District Drug Task Force	Jackson County
Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District	Carroll County	NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District	Paragould	Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force	Camden
Ladd Water Users Association	Pine Bluff	North Little Rock - Library	North Little Rock	Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District	Nashville
Lakeview Midway Public Water	Lakeview	North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water	North Little Rock	Waldron Housing Authority	Waldron
Lee County Water Association	Marianna	Northwest Public Water	Mountain Home	Western AR Planning & Development District	Fort Smith
Little Rock Arts Center	Little Rock	Northwest AR Conservation Authority	Rogers	White River Regional Housing	Melbourne
Little Rock Downtown Partner	Little Rock	Northwest AR Economic Development District	Harrison	Yorktown Water Association	Star City



Mayor James Sanders welcomed municipal leaders from across Northeast Arkansas to Blytheville in October for the inaugural Technical Assistance for Mayors Program.

New technical assistance program helps mayors meet challenges

By Shelby Fiegel

Our country’s future lies in the strength of our rural communities. This statement is repeated over and over by various leaders across America, but many of our small town leaders are experiencing extreme adversity. Rural communities are desperate for resources, have dying populations, are losing their youth because of a lack of job availability, and their work forces lack soft skills. They have housing, water system, and general infrastructure issues. And to top it off they don’t have the funds to combat all of these issues.

That’s a lot to digest. Yet, though our rural communities face what seems like insurmountable problems, there is hope and opportunity for them to revitalize, progress, and grow. They just need a jump-start and a helping (experienced) hand.

Recognizing the need for community and economic development training and grant assistance to help build the capacity of the leaders, particularly mayors, of our small towns, University of Central Arkansas’s Division

of Outreach and Community Engagement created a program entitled Technical Assistance for Mayors Program, or TAM 360°. The technical assistance program is a free program designed to educate Arkansas mayors about the various state and federal resources that are available to support them when addressing affordable housing and non-housing community development issues in an effort to improve the overall welfare of their cities.

The goal of the program is to help rural mayors meet the wide range of challenges they face in their cities head on by providing access to resources and tools to inform their daily practices and move their cities forward.

Kristy Carter, TAM’s program administrator, engaged local non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, and state, regional, and federal agencies in both planning and preparing curriculum for the technical assistance program. Major partners include the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Arkansas

Development Finance Authority, Arkansas Community Foundation, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Participants who stay throughout the program will receive a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grantee Training Certificate, which is recognized by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) as a measure of competence and overall knowledge necessary to submit a successful grant application for CDBG funds.

The first Technical Assistance for Mayors training event was held Oct. 27-29 in Blytheville at Arkansas Northeastern College. Twenty-five mayors and various community leaders were in attendance representing several cities in Northeast Arkansas: Bassett, Blytheville, Dell, Etowah, Gilmore, Gosnell, Hoxie, Joiner, Leachville, Luxora, Manila, Marked Tree, Portia, Sedgwick, Turrell, Walnut Ridge, and Wilson. Program highlights included the AEDC's Community Development Division, grants administration and application training, group discussion concerning possible funding sources for future community development projects, "Funding for Affordable Housing Projects," "Effective Communication and Consensus Building," and a legislator panel.

Participants also had numerous opportunities to network with one another, make connections with state and local resources, and share community updates.

Mayor Larry Tinker of Hoxie said, "I am in my fifth year in office and have a background in facilities management in higher education. I thought going into office that I was prepared, but I wish I had experienced this

program in my first term to genuinely prepare me for my position. I think that every mayor, especially those in their first term, should learn about funding opportunities and need to be equipped with the tools they need to support their communities."

"TAM helps mayors learn about needs across the state," Blytheville Mayor James Sanders said. "It made me realize that no matter the size of your community, we all share some of the same problems. All those in attendance also learned how to work together and help one another when possible. It was a great opportunity to provide information to organizations that serve us at the state and local level and in turn they provided us with information that will benefit our communities."

Upcoming training session dates and locations include:

- Nov. 17-19, East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City
- Feb. 16-18, 2016, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff in Pine Bluff
- March 15-17, 2016, in Monticello (location TBA)

To apply for one of these sessions or to learn more, please go to uca.edu/cced/TAM, call 501-450-3139, or email kcarter@uca.edu



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



Participants who complete the program receive a CDBG Grantee Training Certificate.

Set your sights on 2016

By Chad Gallagher

As the lights of Christmas shine and our calorie consumption climbs, it is time to capture our thoughts and ideas for a new year. It is time to set new goals, make plans, and think toward the future. It is a natural time for planning. Overall, planning does no harm and certainly has the capacity to significantly improve your success as a municipal official. As the old saying goes, failing to plan really is to planning to fail.

Looking back for forward strength

Every mayor in Arkansas has the opportunity to create and deliver to the city council a state-of-the-city address. It's a chance to cover the successes, challenges, and shortfalls of the previous year while looking forward to the next. The first step is to look back and take a true assessment of 2015. What was achieved for the city? What was the greatest challenge of the year and how was it met? If the city has an overall strategic plan, goals, or community blueprint, what in the plan was achieved?

Sometimes this process can feel like an indictment. We often discover that we have not been as successful as we hoped. Sometimes the day-to-day items of keeping the trains moving keep us from achieving the greater things we dream of in public service. When assessing the previous year be honest, make a list, document it, and ask others to participate. Importantly, share your findings with everyone involved and use them as a catalyst for a greater 2016. There is little good in dwelling on the past, but looking back for forward strength can prove very helpful.

Looking forward

Now is the perfect time to think not only long range, but more specifically about 2016. When Christmas comes next year what do you hope to have achieved as a municipality? Is there a certain service you want to enhance? Do you need to improve interaction or communication with the citizens? Should the city work on economic development, or resolve an outstanding problem? It may be worth having a goal-setting meeting with the city council and separately between the mayor and the department heads. The key is to get everyone involved and to collectively move the ball in one direction.

Now is the perfect time to set specific, measurable goals for each identified challenge. Mid-year would be a great time to evaluate your progress. Every goal may not be achieved, but progress should be measurable, and that in itself is rewarding.

Create simple, measurable goals for the calendar year, but don't stop there. As we work with cities across Arkansas and beyond, we always recommend that each city engage in a community development process that includes three large stages, each with multiple phases. First, conduct a community needs assessment to evaluate the strengths, weakness, preferences, challenges, and opportunities before your community.

Second, develop a community blueprint or strategic plan. Using the findings of the needs assessment this blueprint should address every key component of your community. It becomes the guiding star for your community's development. The blueprint becomes the architectural plan to be followed in building your community's future.

Lastly, the work begins with a thorough implementation process. Implementation is where many great plans find their death. It is here that you must deliberately begin to implement each strategy to achieve the desired goals. The journey of a thousand miles is achieved one step at a time and the implementation process is this way.

As you begin the new year think about the specific things you want to achieve as a community and give some thought to your city's planning and development process. Give us a call to discuss your community development efforts, strategic planning, and your pursuit of grant funds. Our services are available to help League members with each of these kinds of projects.



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.

Municipal Notes

PMT-MOPEBT waives fees for members

In an effort to enhance returns for participants in the Pension Management Trust-Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust (PMT-MOPEBT), the League Executive Committee has waived the usual AML fee for members in the program. The committee approved the move at the League's annual planning meeting in August in Batesville.

Four NWA cities receive trail grants

The Arkansas Highway Commission has approved giving more than \$20 million to applicants for the Transportation Alternatives Program, Safe Routes to School Program, and Recreational Trails Program projects, including four in Northwest Arkansas, the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Dec. 5. West Fork will get about \$95,000 and Prairie Grove will get about \$77,000 in Safe Routes to School money. Bentonville will get \$75,000 and Fayetteville will get \$56,000 through the Recreational Trails Program.

Ticker-tape sign coming to LR's Creative Corridor

A ticker-tape style sign will soon be placed at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Main Street in downtown Little Rock's Main Street Creative Corridor, thanks to an Art Place Foundation Grant, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* has reported. The nearly \$87,000 grant will cover the sign's cost, installation, and a five-year warranty. The sign will promote performances and other events via a wrap-around, 10mm LED light display.

Civil War Trust singles out two Arkansas battlefields for fundraising

Through the end of December, the Civil War Trust, a national nonprofit, will make a 10-1 match on donations to Elkins' Ferry Battlefield near Prescott and Prairie Grove Battlefield, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Dec. 6. The preservation effort aims to save 448 acres at the site of the Engagement at Elkins' Ferry, where Confederate forces attacked a Union column on April 3-4, 1864; and 40 acres at the site of the Battle of Prairie Grove, which took place on Dec. 7, 1862, and was the last major engagement of the war in Northwest Arkansas.

The trust's end-of-the-year matching program also includes sites in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Tax-deductible donations can be made at the trust's website, civilwar.org.



Obituaries

ARNOLD DAVID FELLER, 92, who served as mayor of Mulberry for 24 years and as League president in 1996-1997, died Dec. 6.

JEFF T. HARPER, 57, mayor of Hackett and the city's former fire chief, died Nov. 5.

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Both sides win in public-private partnerships

By Susan Pendergrass

There's been a trend throughout the United States for many years now that is picking up steam. The Public-Private Partnership process, also known as a PPP or a P3, has actually been in use for more than 100 years. The Erie Canal—connecting the Hudson River to Lake Erie—is an example of a P3, completed in 1825. While historically P3s have been the vehicle used for transportation-related projects, P3s are now being applied more among other sectors including water and wastewater systems, education, urban economic development, and a wide range of other applications. The economic benefits for public agencies, private business, and the regions in which they are constructed are numerous.

A public-private partnership is a government service or private business venture that is funded and operated through a partnership of government and one or more private sector companies. A P3 involves a contract between a public sector authority and a private party, in which the private party provides a public service or project and assumes substantial financial, technical and operational risk in the project. In some types of P3s, the cost of using the service is borne exclusively by the users of the service and not by the taxpayer.

There are typically two reasons why a group would want to pursue a P3. First, it is understood that the public sector would use private sector knowledge and expertise to deliver a final product or complete a successful project that would otherwise be accomplished by the public sector group. The second reason is that the P3 is designed so that the public sector entity will not be burdened by being held accountable for any borrowing. The private sector portion implementing the program bears the burden of capital investment.

The largest benefactors of decades of P3 projects are cities and counties, which are enjoying the results of successful projects. These agencies are rapidly applying these experiences to combine strengths and resources of both the public and private sectors. P3s may sometimes

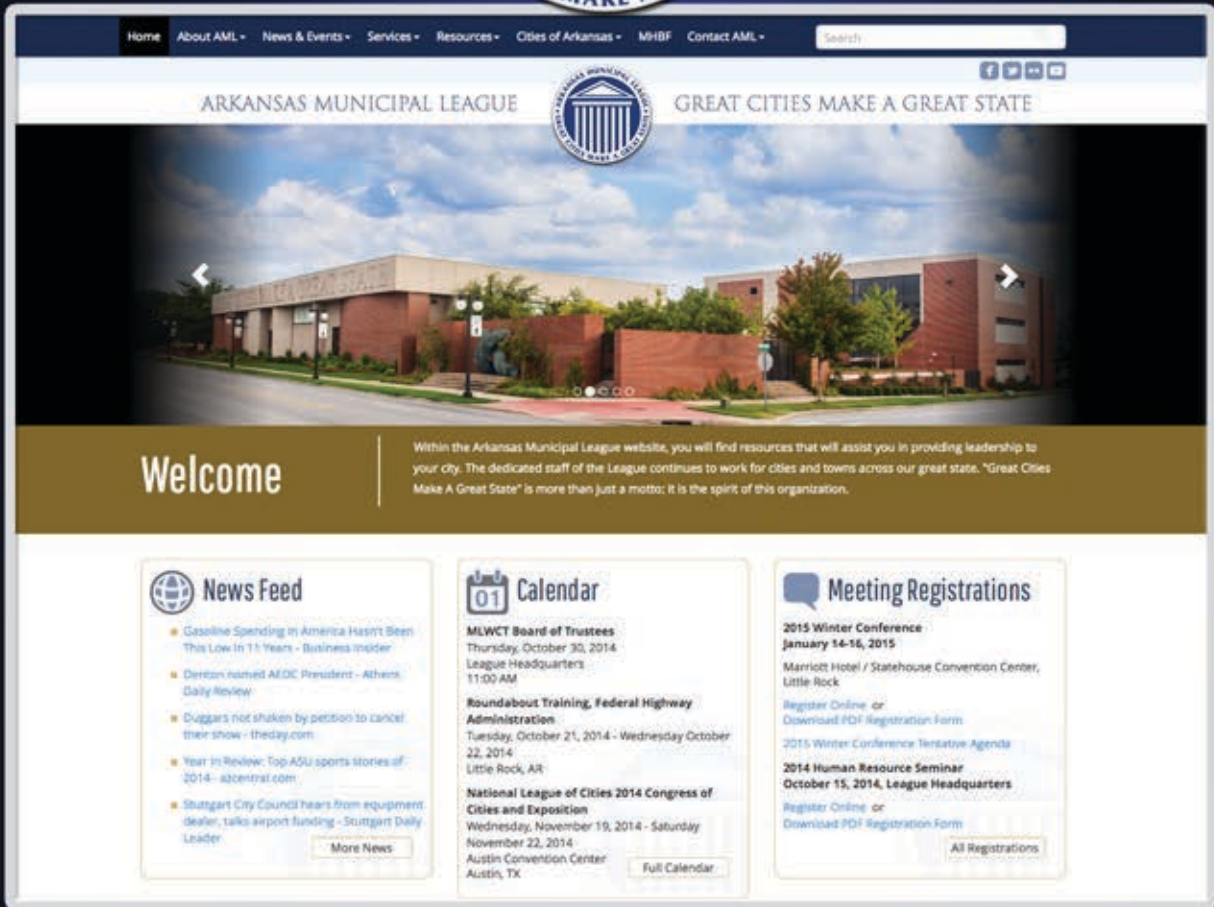
be more difficult to implement than other types of programs, but the lessons learned can make them worth the effort. The most renowned aspect of the P3 process is the “team” aspect of the partnership, where all are invested and therefore all want to see a rewarding program and end result.

While the concept continues to grow in the U.S., other countries have successfully utilized P3s for decades on practically every continent, with a strong showing in most western European nations. P3s also have a strong presence in the U.S., particularly in the Northeast and parts of California. For example, 23 percent of our population is served by investor-owned firms running water and wastewater systems. These are P3s from which both the public agencies and the private sectors benefit both financially and by providing excellent service to the communities they serve.

There are so many advantages to this style of project procurement for all parties involved. P3s vary from case to case because they are naturally customized for each project to specifically meet a community's exact needs. Even something as simple as leasing a water tower to a cell tower developer can create new revenue. The public entities are able to maximize their public assets and be more involved in the process and their environment, while the private side establishes itself as a good partner and might gain opportunities otherwise overlooked. With declining revenue among city and state agencies, a P3 is a viable solution to provide quality projects for its communities while also enabling the private sector to contribute work opportunities for the community.



Susan Pendergrass is Director of Business Development at McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Susan at 501-371-0272 or email spendergrass@mccllelland-engrs.com.



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Workshop raises awareness for Tree Campus USA and benefits of trees

By Alison Litchy

The Arkansas Forestry Commission partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences recently to put on a workshop called “Tree Campus USA.” It was held on the UAMS campus and coincided with their work toward their third year as a Tree Campus USA site. This free workshop was open to the general public as well as members of universities around the state.

The workshop included topics on what Tree Campus USA is about, the various benefits that are attached to it, how to become a Tree Campus USA, and how to make it work for a school of higher education.

Guest speakers at the workshop are strong professionals in their field. Lynn Warren of Arkansas State Parks talked about the physical and social benefits of trees. Other topics ranged from faster healing times to how trees reduce stress. Robin W. Connell from PLANTation Services brought a unique perspective of how indoor plants, including trees, offer benefits

to health as well. Chris Stuhlinger of the University of Arkansas Monticello spoke about native tree species and included the pros and cons of each species. Attendees were excited and eager to learn and interact with the speakers.

UAMS has been great in the planting of trees and educating the public about the benefits of trees on their campus. Over the past nine years UAMS has planted 111 evergreens, 108 understory trees, and 122 shade trees.

Penny Talbert, UAMS Grounds and Landscape Manager, said, “Our team of nine strives to give our patients and guest a ‘sense of nature’ or beauty in small spaces when we can. We have people dealing with life and death on a daily basis, and escaping to a green space can be very healing.”

They are a hard working crew, striving nonstop to keep the urban forest healthy. The nice green space with sitting areas that they have created is called The Chancellor’s Garden, and this area is rarely unoccupied.

Their goal is to increase the number of these “escape from the inside” locations.

This is a great model for any campus or community to follow. The research on how trees in our communities make them more livable supports the fact that it is important to incorporate trees into the planning process, whether it involves redesigning a streetscape or adding new buildings. Whatever the project entails, trees should be a part of the process. For more information on this research go to www.naturewithin.info.

Famous and historic Trees

New life is being brought to an older program. The Famous and Historic Tree Program has been revitalized. The Arkansas Forestry Commission has partnered with natural resource professionals from around the state to bring this program back to life.

For a bit of history, The Arkansas Famous and Historic Tree Program (AFH) was established on National Arbor Day, April 25, 1997, during a public ceremony on the state capitol grounds in Little Rock. The purpose of this program is to create a greater awareness and appreciation of the state’s trees through the recognition of their historical background. The program was developed through a cooperative effort between Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Department of Arkansas Heritage (represented by both the Natural Heritage Commission and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program), and the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs.

The program has two main goals: preservation and education. The preservation goal is to promote understanding and appreciation of Arkansas’s trees as well as their significance to national and/or state history. The second goal is to promote education, using trees as living textbooks to learn about history and the environment.

The Famous and Historic Tree Programs highlights historic Arkansas trees and their stories. Each month, another tree and its story will be highlighted on the website, arhistorictrees.org. Trees are selected by a committee of forestry professionals and partners from state and federal agencies. This program is still in the growing phase, but applications are being accepted.



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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Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
January	\$5.1428	\$4.8662	\$0.3163	\$0.5728	\$1.9533	\$2.0995
February	\$4.5811	\$4.8562	\$0.4833	\$0.4599	\$1.0052	\$1.0921
March	\$4.7165	\$5.1898	\$0.4463	\$0.2339	\$1.0055	\$1.0909
April	\$4.8363	\$4.7309	\$0.5347	\$0.6375	\$1.0055	\$1.1417
May	\$5.1527	\$5.2251	\$0.5897	\$0.2547	\$1.0053	\$1.0918
June	\$4.9881	\$5.2410	\$0.6126	\$0.2738	\$1.0050	\$1.0920
July	\$5.5230	\$5.3082	\$0.5581	\$0.6600	\$3.9543	\$2.9748
August	\$4.9486	\$5.0259	\$0.6130	\$0.2560	\$1.0932	\$0.9641
September	\$5.0410	\$5.3748	\$0.5763	\$0.2632	\$1.0910	\$1.0791
October	\$5.1889	\$5.2322	\$0.5542	\$0.2767	\$1.0930	\$1.0707
November	\$4.9326	\$5.0931	\$0.4906	\$0.2797	\$1.0928	\$1.0772
December	\$4.8110	\$4.8776	\$0.4013	\$0.2499	\$1.0919	\$1.0776
Total Year	\$59.8626	\$61.0210	\$6.1764	\$4.4180	\$16.3960	\$15.8515

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
January	\$9,666,249.40	\$9,159,751.23	\$594,574.44	\$1,078,253.79	*\$3,671,282.93	*\$3,951,880.56
February	\$8,610,432.52	\$9,140,972.61	\$908,313.92	\$865,620.02	\$1,889,234.55	\$2,055,766.00
March	\$8,864,931.29	\$9,768,890.51	\$838,837.95	\$440,227.94	\$1,889,913.97	\$2,053,376.13
April	\$9,090,103.48	\$8,905,034.06	\$1,005,050.29	\$1,199,954.61	\$1,889,913.97	\$2,149,094.75
May	\$9,684,675.50	\$9,840,348.46	\$1,108,429.75	\$479,664.03	\$1,889,592.55	\$2,056,091.57
June	\$9,380,093.69	\$9,870,151.62	\$1,151,947.00	\$515,640.06	\$1,889,914.20	\$2,056,559.07
July	\$10,386,236.87	\$9,996,770.39	\$1,049,503.01	\$1,242,957.21	**\$7,436,192.77	***\$5,602,259.11
August	\$9,310,016.61	\$9,465,188.42	\$1,153,167.19	\$482,195.54	\$2,056,570.50	\$1,815,712.03
September	\$9,483,759.74	\$10,122,118.61	\$1,084,169.71	\$495,609.13	\$2,052,581.22	\$2,032,276.34
October	\$9,763,094.43	\$9,866,818.54	\$1,042,826.36	\$521,753.79	\$2,056,448.50	\$2,019,155.56
November	\$9,282,963.15	\$9,604,609.53	\$923,263.56	\$527,387.24	\$2,056,540.00	\$2,031,292.21
December	\$9,054,075.63	\$9,198,069.64	\$755,208.69	\$471,202.66	\$2,054,945.78	\$2,032,217.62
Total Year	\$112,576,632.31	\$114,938,723.62	\$11,615,291.87	\$8,320,466.02	\$30,833,130.94	\$29,855,680.95

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

** Includes \$3,516,800.29 supplemental and \$2 million appropriation from Category B of Budget Stabilization for July 2014

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

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



- 2015 ELECTIONS**
- BERRYVILLE**, May 12 Passed. .5% extension
 - CRAWFORD Co.**, May 12 Passed. 1% extension
 - FORT SMITH**, May 12 Passed. 1%
 - POLK Co.**, May 12 Failed. 1%
 - EL DORADO**, June 9 Passed. 1%
 - OZARK**, August 11 Passed. 1%
 - WYNNE**, October 27 Passed. 1%
 - BROOKLAND**, Nov. 10 Passed. 2%
 - JONESBORO**, Nov. 10 Failed. 1%
 - LAWRENCE Co.**, Nov. 10 Passed. .5%

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Graves, Office of State Treasurer See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2015 with 2014 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$48,260,965	\$44,899,051	\$42,805,543	\$41,135,484	\$91,066,508	\$86,034,535	\$12,222	\$4,805
February	\$57,956,453	\$51,556,660	\$50,071,410	\$46,326,186	\$108,027,863	\$97,882,846	\$12,659	\$5,765
March	\$46,032,300	\$41,142,676	\$41,404,634	\$37,596,230	\$87,436,935	\$78,738,906	\$19,161	\$5,571
April	\$46,694,339	\$44,819,678	\$42,176,819	\$41,824,879	\$88,871,158	\$86,644,557	\$15,459	\$6,185
May	\$52,104,723	\$48,373,032	\$46,560,371	\$43,431,803	\$98,665,094	\$91,804,835	\$4,827	\$6,011
June	\$49,711,589	\$45,121,494	\$44,369,398	\$40,770,568	\$94,080,987	\$85,892,061	\$25,867	\$7,080
July	\$50,358,675	\$50,985,699	\$44,565,666	\$45,660,838	\$94,924,341	\$96,646,537	\$18,804	\$7,291
August	\$51,846,227	\$48,591,520	\$47,174,793	\$44,364,160	\$99,021,020	\$92,955,680	\$16,649	\$7,038
September	\$50,366,202	\$48,279,490	\$48,072,222	\$43,224,258	\$98,438,424	\$91,503,748	\$17,771	\$9,120
October	\$50,569,467	\$50,649,942	\$46,609,011	\$45,482,360	\$97,178,477	\$96,132,302	\$18,511	\$8,604
November	\$49,449,818	\$48,903,456	\$46,067,600	\$44,043,654	\$95,517,418	\$92,947,110	\$17,009	\$19,648
December		\$49,348,276		\$44,623,076		\$93,971,352		\$14,221
Total	\$553,350,758	\$572,670,974	\$499,877,467	\$518,483,496	\$1,053,228,225	\$1,091,154,469	\$178,939	\$101,339
Averages	\$50,304,614	\$47,722,581	\$45,443,406	\$43,206,958	\$95,748,020	\$90,929,539	\$16,267	\$8,445

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.

CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL—Johnson City, Tenn., seeks a progressive, innovative and professional Chief Building Official to lead the Code Division, including building inspections/permitting, plans review, and code enforcement, for the City for the future. Requires Bachelor's degree in appropriate field, experience in municipal building inspection, evidence of continued professional development, or possess equiv. combination of experience and training. Knowledge, skills and abilities required of the position are found in the brochure at www.mercergroupinc.com. Johnson City government operates as a home rule municipality and is governed by the City Manager-Commission form of government. Starting annual salary market competitive DOQ/E; benefits provided; reasonable relocation expense negotiable. Open until filled. First review of candidates will occur on Nov. 20. Confidential resumes by COB Nov. 19 to James Mercer, The Mercer Group, 5579B Chamblee Dunwoody Road, #511, Atlanta, GA 30338. Phone: 770-551-0403; fax: 770-399-9749; email: jmercer@mercergroupinc.com. EOE.

CIVIL ENGINEER—Benton seeks a civil engineer. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or a related field. Salary DOE. Applications and a complete job description are available from the Benton website at www.bentonar.org. Applications and resumes should be returned to Human Resources, P. O. Box 607, Benton, AR 72018-0607. The position is open until filled but consideration will begin on Nov. 9. EOE.

CITY MANAGER—Fort Smith (population 87,400). While characterized by its southern heritage of charm and warmth, Fort Smith boldly embraces the future. It is a bustling regional hub for business, manufacturing and commerce. It is a city with enormous potential and a tremendous future. It is seeking an outstanding leader and manager to guide it to the next level – someone who does not sit behind a desk but who is out in the field with the staff and in the community with the public. The manager will be analytical always looking for opportunities to improve efficiency, effectiveness and customer service. For details, go to www.cb-asso.com under "Executive Search / Active Recruitments." Note: The actual title is City Administrator but this is a Council Manager form of government and the City Administrator is in reality a City Manager. Starting salary: \$130,000 to \$170,000. To apply, send your resume to Recruit49@cb-asso.com by Dec. 2. Faxed and mailed resumes will not be considered. Questions should be directed to Colin Baenziger at 561-707-3537.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR—Jonesboro is seeking a Communications Director with a proven track record of successful and effective internal and external communications management and media relations. The Communications Director works closely with the mayor and administration and is responsible for overseeing the city's internal and external communications, including providing public information, media design and production, website maintenance, marketing, and advertising to enhance citizen engagement and increase awareness of city activities and success. The Director is also expected to develop and maintain productive relationships with representatives of the news media, and assist other staff in public information activities. The incumbent is responsible for research, reports, and recommendations on administrative policies, intergovernmental matters, and special projects as assigned. Required qualifications: Equivalent to a four-year college degree, plus two years related experience and/or training, and one to six months related

management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Apply in person at the City of Jonesboro Human Resources Department, Municipal Complex, 300 S Church Street, Jonesboro, or online at www.jonesboro.org/Jobs.aspx. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES—Fort Smith is recruiting a professional to fill the position of Human Resources Director. Under the general guidance of the Deputy City Administrator, this position is responsible for the development, implementation and interpretation of policies and procedures, employee benefits and disciplinary actions; prepares annual personnel and operating budgets and is responsible for ensuring proper administration of the city's Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and employee evaluation process. Excellent opportunity for a visionary and a doer. Starting salary \$64,396 to \$82,846 with growth potential to \$101,275 + excellent benefits. A detailed recruitment brochure is available by calling the Fort Smith human resources department at 479-784-2221 or on our website at www.fortsmithar.gov/humanresources under the documents tab. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES—Corpus Christi, Texas, is seeking a new Director of Municipal Court Services. Corpus Christi, located on the Gulf of Mexico, is the largest city on the Texas coast, with a population of approximately 312,000. The Corpus Christi Municipal Court, with a FY2015-16 administrative budget of just over \$4 million, includes 66 employees: the Director, Assistant Director, 30 municipal court staff, 23 City Detention Center staff, 3 Case Managers, and 8 Marshals. Reporting to an Assistant City Manager, the Director of Municipal Court Services is responsible for the overall management, strategic planning, and employee relations for the Court. Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree preferred. Must have a minimum 10 years' experience with similarly sized courts as Director, or larger courts as Assistant Director level. Class 3 Texas Municipal Court Clerk Certification required, or equivalent for out of state candidates. View complete position profile and apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information contact: Molly Deckert, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources, MollyDeckert@GovernmentResource.com.

DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY—Hardy is accepting applications for the position of Director of Department of Public Safety. The city offers benefits including employee health insurance through the Arkansas Municipal League, retirement with LOPFI and vacation & sick leave. Applications are available at 124 Woodland Hills Road, Hardy. Resume must accompany application. Must be certified and meet all requirements for law enforcement standards and training. Return application to Attn: Mayor Thornton, P.O. Box 5, Hardy, AR 72542.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of Director of Public Works to oversee all aspects of the day-to-day operation of the Department of Public Works, Street, Sanitation and Animal Service. Education and Experience: Applicants must have an Associate's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or technical school; and seven (7) years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and four (5) years of managerial experience-governmental accounting experience is preferred. Starting salary: commensurate with education and experience that exceed the minimum qualifications may be considered for a higher

starting salary. The application process will begin immediately. Applications must be received, post marked, email or fax dated no later than Friday, January 15, 2016. Note: Online applications and resumes will not be accepted by themselves. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. For complete job description and application visit www.maumelle.org and click on the Human Resources Department. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 555, Maumelle, AR 72113. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Salina, Kan., seeks a progressive leader to become the newest member of our city manager's executive staff team. Salina is the 10th largest city and the county seat of Saline County. City of Salina's Public Works Department includes: 87 personnel from 7 divisions, operating out of three facility locations; Engineering, Streets/Stormwater, Traffic Control, Flood Control, Solid Waste (Landfill), Sanitation, Central Garage Divisions. Employees value the importance of customer service, a commitment to excellence, and professional ethics. Our next director will have a commitment to our values, a strategic approach to leadership, continuous improvement and community service. Other qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or closely related field; 10 yrs. progressively responsible management and engineering or public works experience; PE licensure preferred. For more information or to apply, go to www.salina-ks.gov. Salary: Up to \$123,115 DOQ plus excellent benefits. Position is open until filled. EOE.

MARKETING CONSULTANT—Mena Advertising & Promotion Commission is requesting qualifications, from interested and qualified individuals or agencies, to contract for professional services for the purpose of providing festival and event planning, marketing plans, marketing campaigns, and graphic designs to promote tourism in Mena. A degree in marketing, or three years previous work experience in marketing, is required. Proficiency in graphic design is also required. For more information please contact Becky Horton at 479-394-4585.

OCCUPANCY CLERK—The Magnolia Housing Authority located in Magnolia, Arkansas, is seeking to fill the Position of Occupancy Clerk immediately. The qualified individual must have experience in the Public Housing field. We are looking for someone with a strong work ethic and a self-starter. This job is challenging and fast paced. The employee reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for all occupancy related concerns, including but not limited to applicants, screening with reference to background checks, move-in/move-outs, rent collection, monthly reporting for Low-Rent Public Housing (HUD) and Multi-Family (Section 8-New Construction). Public Housing Manager Certification would be a plus. Computer knowledge and experience with Lindsey Software preferred. Excellent letter writing/typing skills required. Need knowledge of current HUD regulations. This job has an excellent Salary and Benefit package; including 401(a) retirement plan, Sick and Vacation leave, paid Health, Dental, and Vision coverage and Life Insurance. Please submit resume to: mha@arkansas.net.

PLANNER—Benton is currently taking applications for above position. Complete job description and employment application available at Benton Municipal Complex, 114 S. East Street, Benton, AR, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, or online at www.bentonar.org. Position is open until filled, but consideration will begin after 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9. EOE.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR—Bryant is accepting applications for an energetic and forward-thinking Planning/Community Development Director. This position starts at \$46,188, commensurate with experience. Bryant offers a comprehensive benefits package as well as paid time off and retirement. Applications may be completed online at www.cityofbryant.com or picked up at the Human Resources Department at 210 S.W. 3rd St., Bryant, AR 72022. A city application must be submitted. EOE.

FOR SALE—Boston Mountain Solid Waste District has a 2000 Erin Starscreener 200-A with 30' discharge conveyor for sale. Formerly used for compost processing. Unit starts easily and runs great. 5 cubic yard hopper, 3 cylinder 54 hp motor, and low hours. \$40,000 for both pieces picked up at our Prairie Grove location. Call 479-846-3005 for more information or to schedule an appointment to see it run.

FOR SALE—Boston Mountain Solid Waste District has a 2001 Trailstar Live Floor trailer for sale. Trailer is being sold as is for \$22,000. Call 479-846-3005 for more information.

FOR SALE—Boston Mountain Solid Waste District has a 95 gallon Cram-A-Lot Cart Tipper for sale. Used only a few times. In excellent condition. It is a stationary tipper perfect for emptying cans into balers or larger dumpsters. Purchased in 2007, asking \$7,500. Call 479-846-3005 for more information.

FOR SALE—Van Buren has for sale a 2002 LeeBoy 7000T asphalt track paver. Installed new fuel lines and some hydraulic hoses. Replaced both screed lift cylinders and valve block. Other misc. repairs. \$15,000. We paved with it this year. Need a larger machine. Contact Street Dept. Manager Wayne Sandusky, 479-471-5009.

FOR SALE—2007 Ford Crown Victoria Police Vehicle (black and white). Approximately 81,279 miles. Vehicle is equipped with lights, sirens, radar unit, camera, and has a prisoner partition. Trunk has storage area. Asking a reserve of \$8,000. The city will be accepting sealed bids until noon Nov. 16. Bids will be opened at 6 p.m. Nov. 16 at council meeting. The city reserves the right to accept or deny any and all bids. Please contact Oak Grove Heights City Hall at 870-586-0042 between 8 a.m.-12 p.m. to inquire about vehicle. If you missed the sealed bid deadline, please contact city hall after Nov. 16 if interested in purchasing the vehicle if it has not been sold.



NOTICE: Annexation Reports Due March 1

Arkansas Code Ann. sections 14-40-2201 and 14-40-2202 provide:


- (a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.
- (2) The written notice shall include:
 - (A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and
 - (B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-40-2202. Inhabitants of annexed area

- (a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:
 - (1) Have all the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the annexing city or incorporated town; and
 - (2)(A) Be extended the scheduled services within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final.
 - (B) The mayor of the municipality shall file a report with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk of the extension of scheduled services.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been extended to the area and property boundaries of the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall:
 - (1) Include a written plan for completing the extension of services and estimated date of completion; and
 - (2) Include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with any additional annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been extended as required under this subchapter.

To obtain a sample *Notice Describing Annexation Elections, and Schedules of Services* access the "Legal FAQs" www.arml.org/resources/legal-faqs page of www.arml.org.

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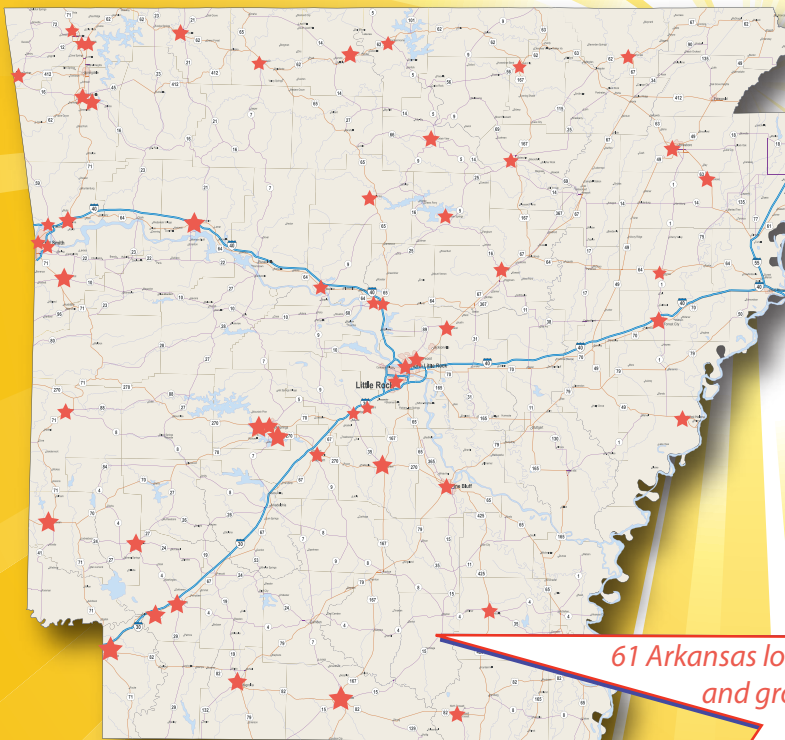
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