

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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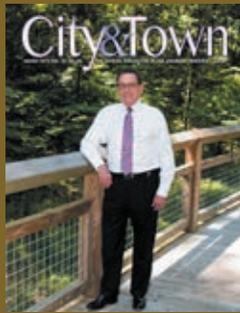


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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin is the 2019-2020 League president, and there’s a lot going on in the booming northeast Arkansas city. Meet Mayor Perrin and learn about the public-private partnerships that help make Jonesboro tick inside beginning on page 6. Read also a message from our Executive Director Mark Hayes (the first in a new regular series), check out pictures from the 40th Cave City Watermelon Festival and Pine Bluff’s first public pool in more than 40 years, examine the issue of men mentoring women in light of the #MeToo movement, and much more in this issue.—atm

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Publisher
Mark R. Hayes

Deputy Director
Whitnee V. Bullerwell

Editor
Andrew T. Morgan

Graphic Designer
Mark R. Potter

Advertising Assistant
Tricia Zello

Email:
citytown@arml.org



Facebook.com.com/
 Arkansas.Municipal.League



twitter@ARMuniLeague



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Dear friends and fellow public servants,
We are just getting started on another year of service at the Arkansas Municipal League, and as this issue of *City & Town* is being printed, we are working hard to put together an outstanding executive committee. Our first meeting will be in Jonesboro in a few short days, so I look forward to telling you how it went in next month's issue.

Included with this issue, you will find our annual *Policies and Goals* statement for 2019-2020. It won't take long to read, but you will note the three resolutions passed by League delegates at the 85th Convention in June. We will discuss these important issues in more depth in the near future.

Many of you participated in or sent staffers to attend the Grants 101 workshop at League headquarters last month. I hope it was a fruitful experience, because few things can be as helpful in supplementing a city budget as a knowledgeable and talented grants writer.

In Jonesboro, we have a grants department to identify opportunities that provide millions of dollars annually, money that would otherwise be going to other cities around the nation. Recently, our grants department was awarded more than \$2.3 million for a rail spur to increase storage space—and hopefully new business—as well as a switch that will decrease the time in which railcars are stopped on streets.

We also received \$1.059 million from the Arkansas Department of Finance Authority to get our Veterans Village up and going. We hope it will serve as a model for other cities.

I also want to recommend one activity that has been very fruitful for me in 11 years as mayor: riding along with my police chief or officers on a Friday night. Now don't get confused: I'm not packing a firearm or making arrests. In fact, any time our officers are engaged with the public, my strict orders are to stay in the car. But there are so many things I learn by doing this. It not only gives me a greater appreciation for the fine work of our police force, it gives me an opportunity to look at our city in ways I don't always see.

A credo I learned in banking is "you cannot manage what you cannot see." I keep a notepad when I ride, and I make notes: This street is too dark. This sidewalk is cracking. This park hasn't been cleaned. This road has potholes. This property is not up to code.

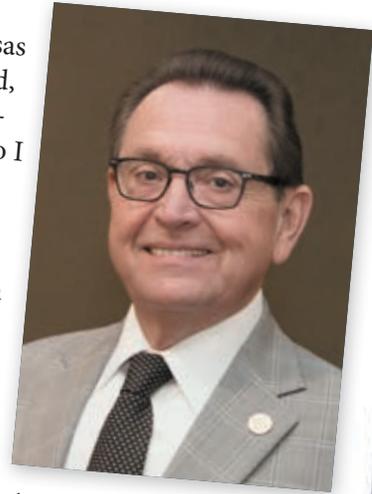
I have a great team and great departmental directors, so mostly what I see is a city government with almost two dozen departments working cohesively and serving our residents well.

But the bar has to be set by the CEO. So as mayor, once a month or so, I put on my bulletproof vest and try to stay out of the way. And take good notes. I encourage each of you to do the same.

Warmly,



Harold Perrin
Mayor, Jonesboro
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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NOTE: Names submitted for positions on committees, councils and boards received after the issue printer date will appear in the next issue of *City & Town*.



Jonesboro Mayor and League 2019-2020 President Harold Perrin.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN.

Building public-private partnerships key for League president

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

As he approaches the last year of his third term as mayor of Jonesboro, 2019-2020 League President Harold Perrin's priorities and vision for his city and for the state remain the same as when he first took the oath of office: to provide great municipal services, to improve the quality of life for residents, and to set a course for robust economic development.

Born and raised in Batesville, Perrin initially stayed home to attend Arkansas College—now Lyon College—after graduating high school, but after two years he transferred to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro to study business. It was there that he met his wife, Susan. This month they celebrate their 51st anniversary together. They have two adult children and four grandchildren between the ages of eight and 20.

Before switching his focus to public office, Perrin spent more than 20 years as a banker, with stints as president of the First State Bank of Newport, president of the Mercantile Bank of Jonesboro, and vice president of First National Bank in his hometown of Batesville. He also ran his own consulting firm for 15 years, working

with banks across the entire southern region in business development and marketing.

He has brought this varied experience in finance and community development to the table as a public servant in Jonesboro, where he served for 16 years on the city council before taking office as mayor in 2009. During that time, he has been active in the Arkansas Municipal



The former Mercantile Bank building in downtown Jonesboro is now the city's Municipal Center, and the city also leases space in the building to local businesses.



Jonesboro's Main Street corridor is thriving with restaurants, shops, and loft apartments.

League as well, serving as District 1 vice president in 2012-2013 and first vice president in 2018-2019.

Jonesboro has earned its reputation as the hub city of northeast Arkansas and even southeast Missouri, with a diverse economy of retail and industry, a major university, and large medical community. The city has grown a steady three percent per year over the past several, and Perrin expects the population to top 80,000 when the 2020 Census results come in. With a great municipal leadership team and strong community partners, the city has worked hard to meet infrastructure challenges and provide excellent services amidst this growth, Perrin says.

One of the early projects during Perrin's tenure as mayor was to move city hall from a small, cramped, former drive-thru bank building and into a facility more suited to serving citizens and managing the city's departments and about 460 employees. When *City & Town* last visited with Mayor Perrin in 2012, the city had purchased and just begun the renovation work on its new headquarters, which happened to be the former Mercantile Bank where he had once served as president.

"It's been a big plus for us," Perrin says. "This building gave us more room, and the morale of the people picked up because in the old building they were on top of each other. It's a much nicer facility."

The city's new home base features four floors and a full basement, each with 12,500 square feet. It houses the administration and several city departments, and the IT department is based in a state-of-the-art and secure facility in the basement.

Building community partnerships is a theme for Perrin and Jonesboro, and the municipal headquarters is no different. The entire second floor is leased to several local businesses, and both of the state's U.S. senators maintain offices in the building.

Perrin has long understood that the city cannot do everything it needs to do with the sales tax alone, which is why he preaches the gospel of the public-private partnership. He has also made it a key theme of his League presidency this year.

Jonesboro has been blessed with motivated community and business leaders, he says.

"We have good partnerships throughout the city," Perrin says. "If I need something that's not real expensive, I can call and ask them if they will contribute."

And more often than not, those community partners come through.

It's also important to learn from other cities in Arkansas and beyond, Perrin says, and he has taken numerous trips with Jonesboro civic and business leaders to check out what's going on in places like Bentonville and Austin, Texas.



"We've got so many cranes in the air right now," Perrin says of the new construction happening in the city. This new addition to St. Bernard's Medical Center is going up in the heart of the city.



The Miracle League park and playground is a great example of an important Jonesboro amenity being funded almost entirely by community donors.

“My philosophy is if we hear or see something new, let’s go look at it,” he says. “We may not do it, but we need to stay on that cutting edge. You may come back and say it’s not for Jonesboro. Or, you may come back and say, you know, it is for Jonesboro.”

As a recent example, Perrin points to a series of new signs that dot Jonesboro’s downtown. On a recent trip to Austin, he took note of some attractive wayfinding signage that showed visitors info on local businesses and featured LED lighting along the city’s sidewalks. Perrin knew downtown Jonesboro could benefit from something like that.

“So I came back from Austin and said I need this designed. So we got it designed. The cost was \$36,000 and St. Bernards Hospital wrote a check for it.”

There is evidence of these kinds of public-private partnerships all across Jonesboro, from its thriving downtown, to its parks system, and even down to the well-kept medians at the exits off I-555.

Along with strong partnerships with community stakeholders, the city has worked so far with a local sales tax of just one percent, among the lowest in the state, especially for a city of its size. That could soon change if voters approve adding a second cent when they go to the polls in September. Half of the additional cent, if approved, would fund public safety improvements. For one thing, to maintain Jonesboro’s high ISO rating, the city will soon need to add a new fire station and hire additional fire fighters. The other half of the new sales tax would go for quality of life improvements, building on the amenities the city offers. For instance, the city has adopted an ambitious \$42 million bicycle and pedestrian master plan that would connect all parts of the city, from its parks to ASU, with downtown as the hub.

Even this proposed sales tax increase reflects community buy-in, Perrin says. The push for the initiative came from an outside group rather than from inside city hall, he says. A group of business leaders dubbed Team

Jonesboro called for the additional cent. Their desire: to make sure Jonesboro builds upon its amenities and continues to attract young people, who will keep the city strong and vibrant for years to come.

Despite many successes in the past decade, Jonesboro has had its share of challenges. The city was in the midst of a financial crisis as Perrin started his mayoral tenure, and it was exacerbated by a record ice storm, which hit soon after he took office. It took the city about a year and a half to recover financially from that. For nine years now, however, the city has had impeccable audits, he says, thanks to the strong team he’s got in the city. Across the city’s departments, they were able to tighten the bolts that needed tightening while still working hard on economic development, because the city didn’t stop growing while they struggled with that.

Perrin looks forward to his term as League president and sharing what he’s learned about building strong community partnerships to further his city’s vision for itself. When it comes to fostering partnerships among community stakeholders, it doesn’t necessarily take a lifetime of experience in the world of finance, nor does your city or town have to be a powerful regional hub. What has worked for Jonesboro is scalable to even small communities in our state, Perrin believes.



The Wall of Honor at the Miracle League park, here getting a paint touch-up, displays the many community partners that made the park possible.

It starts with simply building relationships, he says. Call on your school district and commercial developers. If you’ve got a hospital, call them as well.

“Sit down with them and just ask: Are we where we want to be?” Perrin says. “What can I do for you as the city, and, vice versa, what can you do? We’re partners here. That’s really what I did. What do you think about the city of Jonesboro? Are we providing a great service?”

When you meet with them, make lists of what you want, he says. Where are you weak? Where are you strong? Ask them to dream with you a little bit.

“It’s amazing: If they have that buy-in, if it’s their idea, in most cases they will help you fund that,” Perrin says. “You don’t know unless you ask.”

MEET YOUR 2019-2020 LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENTS



First Vice President

Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry

Baxter has previously served the League as District 4 vice president in 2016-2017, on the executive committee from 2014-2019, and on the board of the Cash Management/Pension Management/Municipal Other Post Employment Benefit Trust from 2012-2014.



District 1 Vice President

Mayor Paul Wellenberger, Fairfield Bay

Wellenberger has previously served the League as a member of the executive committee from 2015-2019 and on the Cities of the Second Class Advisory Council from 2012-2014.



District 2 Vice President

Council Member Allan Loring, Wrightsville

Loring has previously served the League as a member of the Incorporated Towns and Cities of the Second Class Advisory Councils from 1997-2001 and from 2009-2019.



District 3 Vice President

Mayor John Mark Turner, Siloam Springs

Turner has previously served the League on the Cities of the Large First Class Advisory Council from 2014-2019.



District 4 Vice President

Mayor Parnell Vann, Magnolia

Vann has previously served the League on the Municipal Health Benefit Program Board of Trustees from 2014-2019.

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Kindness. Civility. Accountability. Listening. Passion. Compassion.
Hard work.

Since hearing Dr. Rick Rigsby during our recent 85th Convention, I've been doing a lot of thinking about the people in my life who have made a lasting impact on me—people like my grandparents, my parents, my uncle, and my mentors. Over and over, these people and the list of words above have been swimming around in my mind. The words on the list are powerful. For me, the combination of these words and the people I hold dear have caused a cascade of thoughts and memories that are clear and unclear at the same time.

One night, however, sitting on the deck talking with my wife Alison¹, clarity began to set in. As with most of the confusion in my brain, she helps me sort and organize. During that conversation, I realized these words summarize the traits that are the cornerstones of municipal government in Arkansas. City officials and employees bring these traits to city hall every single day. The combination of these traits makes municipal government unique. It's also what makes municipal government strong, caring, productive, and efficient.

I've often said that cities and towns are the most visceral of all governments. Why is that? This may be an oversimplification, but I believe you will understand my thinking: Services of cities and towns touch citizens every single day—no days off, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, every single year. No exceptions and no mulligans². The citizens you represent wake up every day and rely on running water, operational sewer systems, streets, bridges, police protection, fire protection, parks, swimming pools, and the list goes on and on. No other form of government touches the daily lives of citizens more often. That's a big concept when you really give it some thought. Every action you take in your municipal capacity directly affects the daily lives of every resident.

So, why are you so good at meeting this immovable set of responsibilities? Let's compare the list above with your responsibilities.

Kindness—Is there anything that works better in helping people no matter their temperament?

Civility—Almost always you and your fellow officials know that treating people as you wish to be treated is how to get things done.

Accountability—In the immortal words of Martha and the Vandellas, “nowhere to run to baby, nowhere to hide.” Face it. You see your constituents every day. They won't hesitate to vote you out if you don't own your actions.

Listening—This is perhaps the most coveted and rare of traits. You, however, don't really have a choice. You'd better listen or...well, see accountability.

Passion—I know you aren't doing it for the money! You care or you would have never sought out such a difficult but rewarding line of work.

Compassion—You help people in need every day. Whether it's a child in an abusive home or a pile of garbage in the street, you dive in because you care.

Hard work—You get after it every single day. You're there before work formally starts, and you're there long after 5 p.m. Collectively, this is why cities and towns work and work so well.

Thank you, Dr. Rigsby, for the thought-provoking talk. And thanks to all of you hard-working municipal officials for making his words a reality. Until next month, Mark.

Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

1 Alison is my much better half and I'm so very thankful she keeps me on the straight and narrow.

2 Mulligan is a golf term meaning that an errant shot may be repeated without penalty. Tradition dictates that all players in a round agree to the number of mulligans per round. For instance, all players get one mulligan on the front nine and another on the back nine. My golf game is such that one or two mulligans a hole may not be enough to prevent a double bogey.

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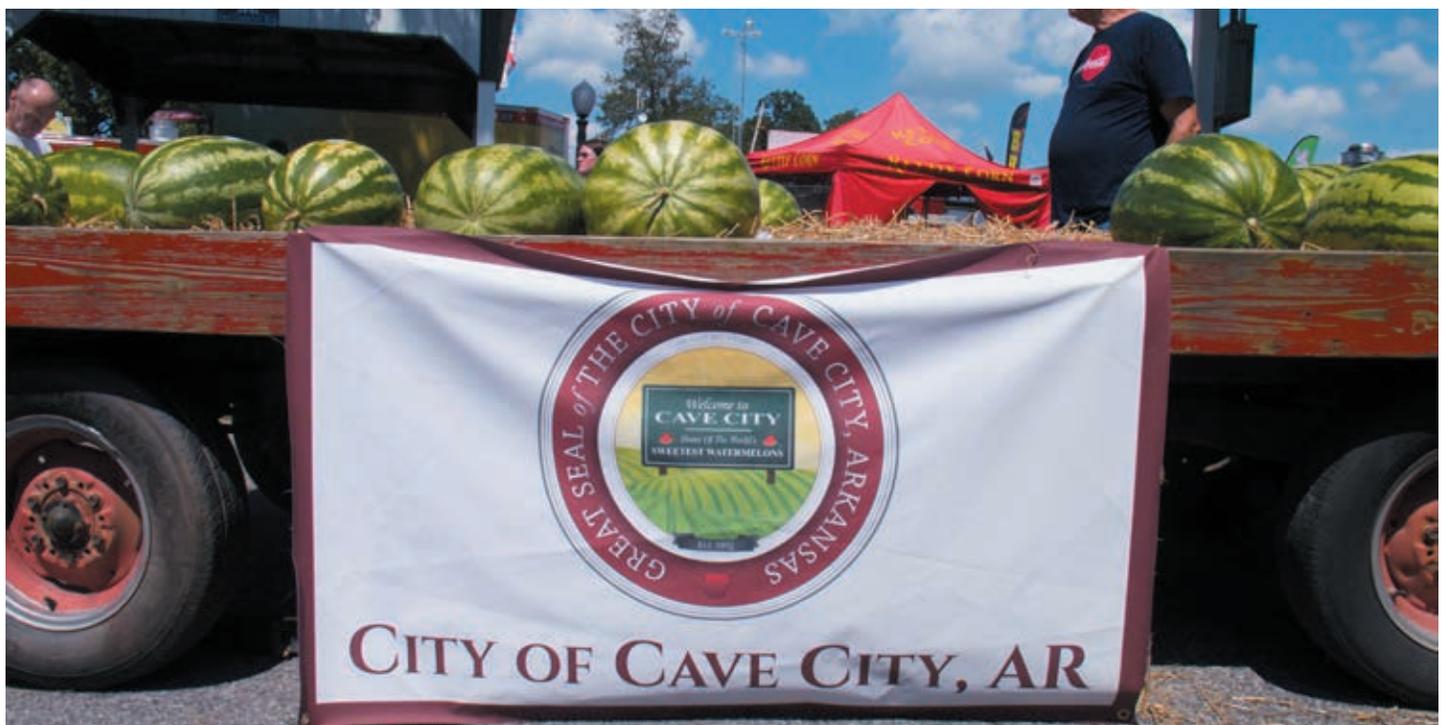
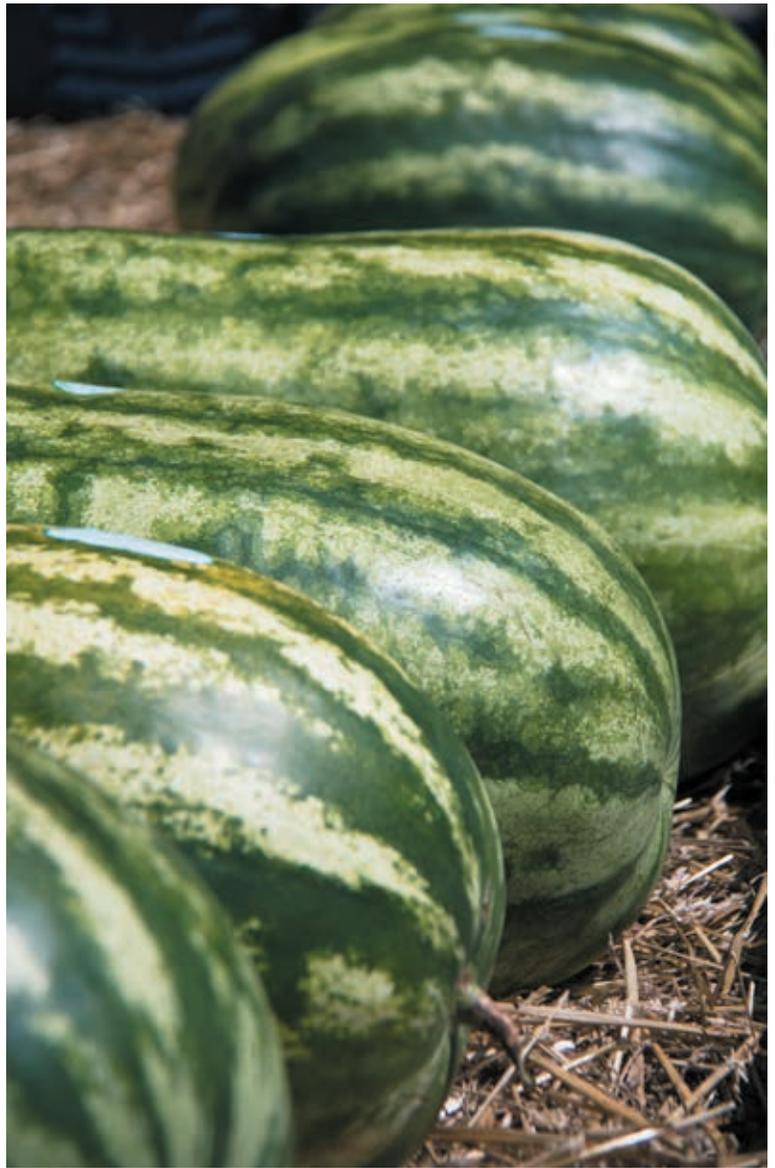


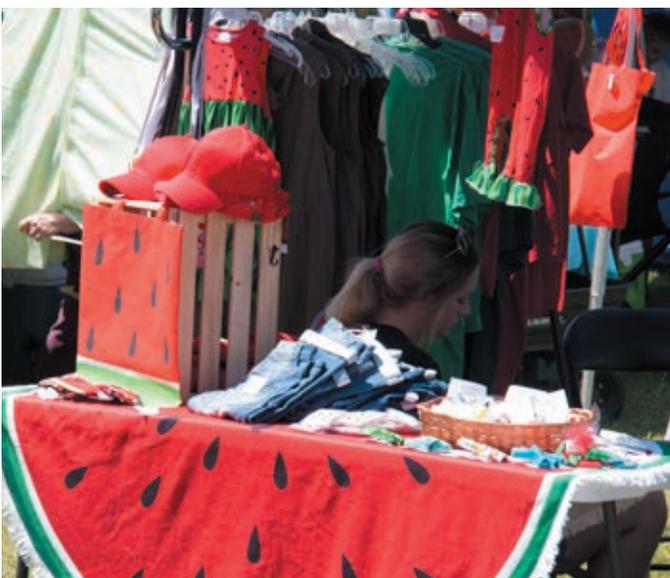
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Cave City celebrates all things watermelon



For many folks in Arkansas and beyond, Cave City means watermelons, and the city celebrated the sweet-n-juicy melon in fine style July 25-27 at the 40th Cave City Watermelon Festival, which drew thousands of visitors over the course of three days. In addition to watermelon judging, watermelon eating contests, watermelon parade, and other melon-centric activities, the festival featured dozens of food trucks, arts and craft sellers, a classic car show, and a full lineup of musical guests, including headliners Shenandoah and Mark Chestnutt. 🏛️







Pine Bluff city and community leaders cut the ribbon and welcome swimmers to the new aquatic center, the city's first public pool in more than 40 years.

PHOTO COURTESY PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL.

New Pine Bluff Aquatic Center celebrates first summer



PHOTO COURTESY PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL.

Swimmers test out the competition lanes on opening day.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF PINE BLUFF.

Former U.S. Olympic swimmer Maritza Correia spoke and swam during the aquatic center's grand opening.

Summer has been a little cooler in Pine Bluff with the opening June 29 of the city's much-anticipated aquatic center near downtown, where several hundred joined city leaders for a ribbon cutting and an afternoon of free swimming.

It is the first public pool in Pine Bluff in more than 40 years.

"This facility is much more than a pool," Mayor Shirley Washington said at the opening ceremony. "It will be a jewel that serves all of southeast Arkansas."

Planning for the \$12 million indoor facility began in 2011. It features a competition pool, water playground, slide, and Jacuzzi.

Located near downtown and across from city hall and the Pine Bluff Convention Center, the aquatic center is a key piece in the city's coordinated push for a renaissance that includes working through public-private



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF PINE BLUFF.

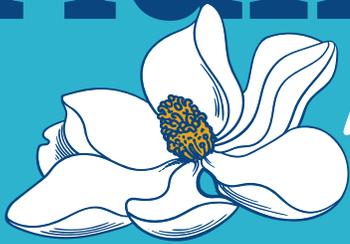
The aquatic center is a "jewel that serves all of southeast Arkansas," Mayor Shirley Washington said.

partnerships to revive downtown, support entrepreneurs, and provide new and expanded amenities in the Delta hub city.

"To see this gives these kids hope—hope that their community is coming back, that their community loves them, that their community embraces them with wonderful opportunities," Washington said. 🏊‍♀️

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MHBP Tips

Understanding your options if a claim is denied

MHBP strives to offer affordable, comprehensive health coverage for all our members, but like all plans, the Program cannot cover everything. To review a list of medical services and equipment that the Program does not cover, visit www.arml.org/mhbp, and go to page 21 of the Municipal Health Benefit Program Booklet. Further, a benefit might be excluded if you fail to pre-certify a procedure, or if you engage in non-medically necessary treatment.

If, however, you feel that you have received a claim denial in error, or you disagree with the Program's determination of your claim, you have several options.

Generally, a denial of a claim will be explained in writing via an explanation of benefits, or EOB, which will give the specific reason for the denial. The EOB may also provide a description of additional information you might be required to provide for reconsideration of your claim and an explanation of why it is needed. Give us a call to answer any questions that you may have, and if our customer service is unable to resolve your issue, it may be resolved through our appeals procedure.

The appeals procedure

Our appeals procedure is governed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) as well as the regulations pertinent to the Act, and it allows for several levels of review to ensure that our decision regarding your benefits was correct.

First Internal Written Appeal—Within 60 days of having received a claims denial notice, write to our Claims Review Team at Municipal Health Benefit Program, P.O. Box 188, North Little Rock, AR 72115, and state in your request why you believe the denial was incorrect. Within 60 days upon receipt of your request, a Claims Review Team Representative will respond to you in writing with a determination regarding your First Internal Written Appeal. If your claim is again denied, the response will reference the Program provision upon which the denial was based. If the Program needs time to investigate the facts, you will be notified. And if you disagree with the decision rendered by the Claims Review Team, you may then file a Final Internal Written Appeal.



Final Internal Written Appeal—Within 60 days of receiving a denial notice of your First Internal Written Appeal, you may appeal to the Municipal Health Benefit Program Board of Trustees. To do so, write to the Program Administrator at P.O. Box 188, North Little Rock, AR 72115, within the allotted timeframe. In your request for a review of the denial, again specifically state why you believe the denial was incorrect. In connection with your request, you may submit documents supporting your claim. Your Final Internal Written Appeal will then be reviewed by the Board at its next scheduled quarterly meeting, along with any documents pertinent to the administration of the Program. Although not required, you are more than welcome to attend the Board meeting and present your case in person. The Board will reach a decision on your Final Internal Written Appeal no later than 180 days after receipt of the request for the Board's review. If there are special circumstances, the decision will be rendered as soon as reasonably possible. The Board will notify you of its decision in writing and will include specific reference to the pertinent Program provisions on which the decision was based.

Outside Review—The Program also gives you the opportunity to seek review of certain claim denials by an independent, external review organization. So if you disagree with the Program's final determination, you may seek review with such an organization within four months of the final decision.

As always, if you have a question about your claim payment or how the Program works, we encourage you to call and visit with a Municipal Health Benefit Program customer service representative at (501) 978-6137, Option 4. 🏠

Great Arkansas Cleanup soon underway



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Each fall, thousands of Arkansans remove tons of trash from our state's roadways, shorelines, parks, and public areas during the Great Arkansas Cleanup, Keep Arkansas Beautiful's fall statewide community improvement campaign. Communities large and small show their commitment to the Great Arkansas Cleanup campaign by recruiting volunteers of all ages and taking on a variety of community cleanup and environmental improvement projects. The Great Arkansas Cleanup runs from September through October.

During the 2018 Great Arkansas Cleanup, more than 6,000 volunteers worked almost 28,000 hours in communities across the state. The community improvement effort involved 164 events, with volunteers collecting 82,737 pounds of litter from 747 miles of roadways, 903 miles of waterways, and nearly 20,000 acres of parks and public areas. The total economic value of the 2018 Great Arkansas Cleanup to Arkansas communities was more than \$1.2 million.

The Great Arkansas Cleanup began more than 40 years ago as the Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Cleanup. In 1985, then-U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers guided legislation requiring an annual pickup event during the weekend after Labor Day on all federal lands. This law, the Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Act, honors the founder of the event. Mr. Garner continued his advocacy for a clean and litter-free environment until his death in 2014.

Visit keeparkansasbeautiful.com/get-involved/cleanups for a list of cleanups scheduled near you and resources to help get a cleanup started in your city, including video tutorials, downloadable planning materials, cleanup safety tips, customizable fliers and media materials, and more. 🗑️

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Cities Combating Hunger event coming to Little Rock

A Cities Combating Hunger convening will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 10 in Little Rock. With support from the National League of Cities and the Walmart Foundation, Little Rock launched the Be Mighty campaign to connect kids and teens to free afterschool, weekend, and summer meals. The campaign, which can be replicated in small, medium, or large cities, is supported by Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. and the Little Rock Board of Directors.

With one in four Arkansas children facing food insecurity, the Little Rock city board passed two resolutions in 2018 to support the campaign and improve access to healthy food for their children and youth.



The free event is targeted to city and county elected officials, school superintendents, and child nutrition directors. Community leaders representing public libraries, community centers, churches, boys and girls clubs, 21st-century learning programs, and parks departments are also encouraged to participate. The U.S. Department



Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Jr., speaks at a Be Mighty event.



City leaders and volunteers prep summer meals.

of Agriculture reimburses organizations up to \$4.45 for each qualifying meal and snack served to youth 18 and under.

Participants will gain a broad understanding of the role cities and counties can play, and an overview of federal meal programs. Following the event, participants will receive technical assistance in starting or expanding federal meal programs in their communities, as well as city and county branded marketing tools.

This event is being held in partnership with the Food Research and Action Center and the National League of Cities. Presenters will include representatives from the Central Arkansas Library System, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the city of Little Rock, the Little Rock School District, and representatives from smaller communities across the state.

The event will take place at The Centre at University Park located at 6401 West 12th Street in Little Rock. The event is free, though registration is encouraged. To register online, visit: bemightylittlerock.org/cities-combating-hunger-convening.

A limited number of travel stipends are available for participants that register before Sept. 15. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Katharine DeRosette at kderosette@cals.org or (501) 918-3016.



Main Street associations host Destination Downtown conference

Louisiana Main Street, Mississippi Main Street Association, and Main Street Arkansas are joining forces to host Destination Downtown, a regional conference expected to attract more than 200 professionals in preservation-based commercial district revitalization, Sept. 11-13 at the Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in Hammond, La.



Public officials from cities and towns of all sizes are invited to participate in the conference, which will cover topics such as preservation, heritage development, tourism, strengthening volunteerism, attracting new residents and businesses, and more.

The registration fee for the event is \$125. To register online, visit <http://tinyurl.com/DestinationDowntownRegister>.

For more information, please contact Ray Scriber with Louisiana Main Street at (225) 342-8162, or email mainstreet@crt.la.gov.

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Men mentoring women in the era of #MeToo

The first in a two-part series on the issue of men mentoring women. Part 1 addresses the reluctance of some men to mentor women.

By John Baldoni

The #MeToo movement, a grassroots effort to help survivors of sexual violence, has sparked a national dialogue on the broader problem of sexual harassment in all contexts, including in the workplace. The increased awareness of the issue has given women a voice and the courage to speak out about the hurdles they face in achieving career success.

While #MeToo has prompted reforms across the HR spectrum, one unintended consequence of #MeToo has been that some men are becoming even more reticent to mentor women. With the top executive ranks remaining predominately male, women still need men to mentor and sponsor them.

Katrin Bennhold of *The New York Times* cited research conducted by Sylvia Ann Hewlett that “found that two-thirds of male executives hesitated to hold one-on-one meetings with women in more junior positions, for fear they could be misconstrued.”

“The business case for women had been made,” Pat Milligan of the consulting firm Mercer told Bennhold, “We were rocking it. And then #MeToo happened.”

Milligan, who does research on women in leadership, adds: “A number of men have told me that they will avoid going to dinner with a female mentee, or that they’re concerned about deploying a woman solo on-site with a male.”

Such reluctance, however, may not be universal. Sally Helgesen, co-author with Marshall Goldsmith of *How Women Rise*, says, “I hear more men saying they

are eager to or enjoy mentoring women than I ever have in the 30 years I’ve been doing my work. I think it helps that companies have laid out some ground rules and policies about how mentoring relationships can best flourish.”

Theodore J. Iwashyna M.D., Ph.D, concurs.

“I am frankly skeptical that this [reluctance] is a real issue. ... I would like to see evidence that there are men who used to be effective mentors to women, but have stopped out of some #MeToo-induced fear. I doubt those people really exist.”

Iwashyna, a professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan and a research scientist at the VA Ann Arbor who has developed a mentoring program, suspects something else.

“I think this is often an insincere line of argument where men who used to not mentor women for other bogus reasons are now using another bogus reason,” he says.

Helgesen, who has taught and mentored women leaders for decades, adds, “The very rare man who gripes about these or complains endlessly about political correctness is probably not someone you want to mentor you in the first place.”

Iwashyna cites the words of a colleague: “The inability to mentor across difference (in the many forms difference takes) is a disqualifying failure that prevents one from being in leadership in the modern era.”

Why women seek male mentors

Both women and men mentor, but it is men that some younger women prefer because most positions of authority are still held by men, so if you seek influence, you want experience from the top.

Shannon Polson, CEO of the Grit Institute, says, “Especially in fields where women are in the minority, women benefit from seeking mentorship from men who are navigating freely within a given environment. To the extent that there are unwritten rules that are part of success, a male mentor may be better able to suggest strategies to negotiate the work environment.”

Helgesen says, “Yes, women should definitely seek out both men and women as mentors. It’s important to remember that much good mentoring is informal or situational. The more you reach out and ask for feedback or support, and the more perspective you seek, the broader network of allies you will build.”

“Women being mentored by men should accord the same professionalism they would in any other work relationship,” says Polson. “Keeping firm and clear boundaries on any relationship will set it up for greater success. Mentorship is a professional relationship in a professional setting, and if conducted as such should cause no concern.”

Polson, who served as an Apache helicopter pilot in Bosnia and Korea, adds, “After working in an almost all-male field, I adopted a rule of never attending after-parties. That may seem too severe for some, but from what I experienced, the return never outweighed the risk. Being aware of perceptions is a hard lesson for a young leader, but a critical one.”

For men who mentor, here’s advice from Iwashyna: “Keep the door open, be appropriate, and learn how to mentor women, or leave.”

Mentoring is a gift that benefits not only the recipient but also the mentor. Not only do they receive the “high” that comes from giving one’s time to another, there is also the opportunity to see perspectives and ideas they hold dear reflected in the experiences and lives of the next generation.

John Baldoni is an internationally recognized leadership educator and executive coach. He is the author of 14 books, including his newest, GRACE: A Leader’s Guide to a Better Us (gracethebook.com).

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Why do municipalities keep getting hacked?

By Kevin Beaver, CISSP

It seems that every few weeks, there's a new municipality somewhere in the U.S. making headlines because of a security incident, a ransomware infection, or a data breach. From the highly-publicized ransomware infection impacting the city of Atlanta to lesser-known security breaches involving the Los Angeles retirement system and Houston's medical plan, it's clear that municipal government agencies are as susceptible to nefarious behavior as any other organization. But why is this? Is it hacking to exact revenge on specific government agencies? Is it insider abuse or employees making poor decisions? Perhaps it's a lack of management buy-in and budget that's limiting IT's ability to keep things under control? The answer can certainly be related to all the above. However, based on what I see in my work as an information security consultant, it tends to be a bit simpler than that.

One thing that I've discovered over the years is that it's not the complicated "hacking" that's often overhyped and glorified by the media and in the movies. Instead, what takes most organizations down are simple security flaws exposing network systems and users. Numerous studies come out each year underscoring this reality. It's "Pareto principle" stuff: 20 percent of the security vulnerabilities are creating 80 percent of the risks. Simply put, it's all about the basics.

Not unlike any other type of business, municipalities are experiencing incidents and breaches because of low-hanging fruit that's often overlooked yet super simple to exploit such as:

- Weak passwords;
- Missing software updates;
- Inadequate malware protection;
- Limited visibility into the network and computer systems;
- Sensitive information being stored in ways that are accessible to anyone on the network;
- Untested systems and software; and
- Gullible, expedient, and click-happy users that are taking the security decision-making process into their own hands.

Many people responsible for IT and security assume that all is well on the network because they have basic security controls in place, and they don't "see" anything happening. Given all the moving parts and complexities



associated with the typical municipal network, there's no reasonable way to know for sure that all is well unless it's validated on an ongoing basis. Until these types of basic security vulnerabilities are discovered and cleaned up, your city runs the risk of experiencing an incident or breach, and you may not even know about until someone else discovers it and tells you.

Arguably, all security incidents and breaches impacting municipalities are preventable, yet it's a growing concern. In many cases, it's IT and security staff failing to acknowledge and fix their system vulnerabilities before the bad guys discover and exploit them. Just as common, though, is the situation whereby management doesn't provide the financial and political backing necessary for the organization to obtain and maintain a reasonable level of security. It's the law of cause and effect: If you fail to acknowledge threats, vulnerabilities, and their associated risks, it's only a matter of time before someone comes along and makes you look bad.

The real question is: Why aren't more organizations seeking out their IT blind spots and weaknesses and doing something about it? It's not terribly difficult, nor is it all that expensive, especially given the alternative. Ideally you should budget for an outside professional to perform an in-depth security assessment. However, with the right tools and expertise, you can uncover and address many of your security risks in house.

The most important thing is to acknowledge that information security is not just an IT problem; it is an actual business concern. Like legal, finance, and operations, information security is a critical function that your municipality can't be without. Don't want to make the headlines? You must vow to do something about it.

With networks growing more complex, the time to do something about security is now. The necessary steps are quite simple:

1. Take the time to know what's on your network;
2. Understand how it's all at risk; and
3. Do what's reasonable and necessary to minimize those risks.

Take action now and on a periodic and consistent basis moving forward. That's the formula for success. Combined with the discipline to see it through, you can rest assured that you've taken a reasonable and defensible approach to prevent the worst from happening and minimize the impact when security events do occur.

Kevin Beaver is an independent information security consultant, writer, and professional speaker with Atlanta-based Principle Logic, LLC. He has written over 1,000 articles and 12 books on information security including the best-selling Hacking For Dummies and The Practical Guide to HIPAA Privacy and Security Compliance. Kevin can be reached at through his website at www.principlelogic.com.

IMLA honors NLR city attorney

The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) has honored North Little Rock City Attorney Amy Fields with the 2019 Brown, Mulligan, Rocha Distinguished Public Service Award, the association has announced. The award is presented to honor a local government attorney “for significant and surpassing achievements in the field of local government law” in the previous year, according to the association’s website, imla.org.



Fields is in her first year of a four-year term as North Little Rock city attorney after running unopposed in last year’s general election. She had been serving in that position, however, since November 2017 when the city council appointed her to replace outgoing City Attorney Jason Carter. She previously served 11 years as an assistant city attorney in Little Rock.

Fields will be honored at an awards luncheon during IMLA’s annual conference in September in Atlanta. 🏛️



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Changes to the Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to Tricia Zello, tzello@arml.org.

Arkadelphia

Delete PRD (Vacant)
 Add PRD Wayne Rodemeyer, Jr.
 Delete AIR Michelle Anthony
 Add AIR (Vacant)

Avoca

Add CM Kathleen Miller

Barling

Delete DR Linda Shipley
 Add DR Savanna Robison
 Delete AM Sandra Hightower

Beaver

Add CM Brian Weinmann

Beedeville

Delete M David Burnette
 Add M Dale Gardner

Camden

Delete FC Robert Medford
 Add /A/FC Ronald Nash

Fort Smith

Delete CD Wally Bailey
 Add CD Matt Jennings

Gosnell

Delete SAN/SS Ronnie Womack
 Add SAN/SS Bobby Uselton, Jr.

Greenway

Delete R/T Patty McHaffey
 Add R/T Julie Hicks

Hermitage

Delete R Daphne Hargis
 Add R (Vacant)

Highfill

Add DA Rob Holland

Horseshoe Bend

Delete CM George Williamson
 Add CM Robert Fox

Oxford

Delete R/T Bonnie Moss
 Add R/T Julie Milburn
 Delete CM Billy McBride

Prairie Grove

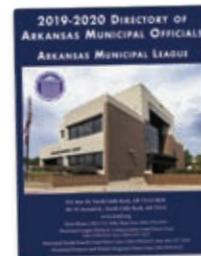
Delete CM Gina Bailey
 Add CM Rick Ault

Van Buren

Add CD Wally Bailey

Walnut Ridge

Delete AM Christy Vacarri Robinson
 Add AM Rachel Smith



Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. *Id.* Arkansas Code section 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

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

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



League hosts grant writing workshop

Arkansas Municipal League partner Legacy Consulting held a half-day “Grant Writing 101” workshop July 24 at the League’s North Little Rock headquarters. The workshop drew 70 city and town officials and employees. Consultant Brenda Beltrani provided information on finding the right grant for the project, writing a successful proposal, and shared reasons why proposals fail.



Brenda Beltrani, consultant with Legacy Consulting.



SAFER COMMUNITIES BY DESIGN



12th Street Improvements
Little Rock, Arkansas





PHOTO BY MARK POTTER.

Free legal assistance available for Arkansas flood victims

As a result of the recent flooding in Arkansas, the Arkansas Bar and the Young Lawyers' Section, in conjunction with FEMA, the Arkansas Emergency Management Agency, the American Bar Association, Center for Arkansas Legal Services, Legal Aid of Arkansas, Arkansas Access to Justice, Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, and Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel is providing free disaster legal assistance efforts to affected individuals who were affected by the recent floods. The toll-free number is 1-800-950-5817 and flood victims may now call the hotline.

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Arkansas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe storms and flooding beginning on May 21, 2019, and ending June 14, 2019.

This action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Jefferson, Perry, Pulaski, Sebastian, Lincoln, and Yell counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Local legal aid providers and pro bono attorneys will be available to help with the following:

- Assistance securing FEMA and other government benefits available to disaster victims;
- Assistance with life, medical, and property insurance claims;
- Help with home repair contracts and contractors;
- Replacement of wills and other important legal documents lost or destroyed in the disaster;

- Consumer protection to guard against price-gouging and avoiding contractor scams in the rebuilding process;
- Counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems; and
- Counseling on landlord-tenant problems.

Flood victims may call the toll-free number and a volunteer attorney will respond by telephone to answer their legal questions. The goal is to assist as many individuals affected by the floods as possible.

Beware of fraud

Both FEMA and the Arkansas Attorney General's Office urge Arkansans to be aware of the risk of fraud and common scams in the wake of severe weather. Common post-disaster fraud practices include phony housing inspectors, fraudulent building contractors, bogus pleas for disaster donations, and fake offers of state or federal aid. Arkansans are urged to ask questions and to require identification when someone claims to represent a government agency.

Affected individuals should also keep in mind that state and federal workers never ask for or accept money and always carry identification badges with a photograph. There is no fee required to apply for or to receive disaster assistance from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), or the State. Additionally, no state or federal government disaster assistance agency will call to ask for your financial account information. Unless you place a call to the agency yourself, you should not provide personal information over the phone as it can lead to identity theft.

Those who suspect fraud can call the toll-free FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721. Complaints may also be made to local law enforcement. 



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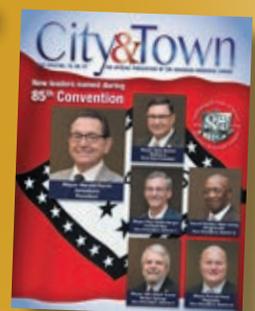
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AML members SAVE 52% the first year!		AML members SAVE 52% the first year!		AML members SAVE 65% the first year!	
Onboarding FREE	Monthly Fee \$249	Onboarding FREE	Monthly Fee \$120	Onboarding FREE	Monthly Fee \$50
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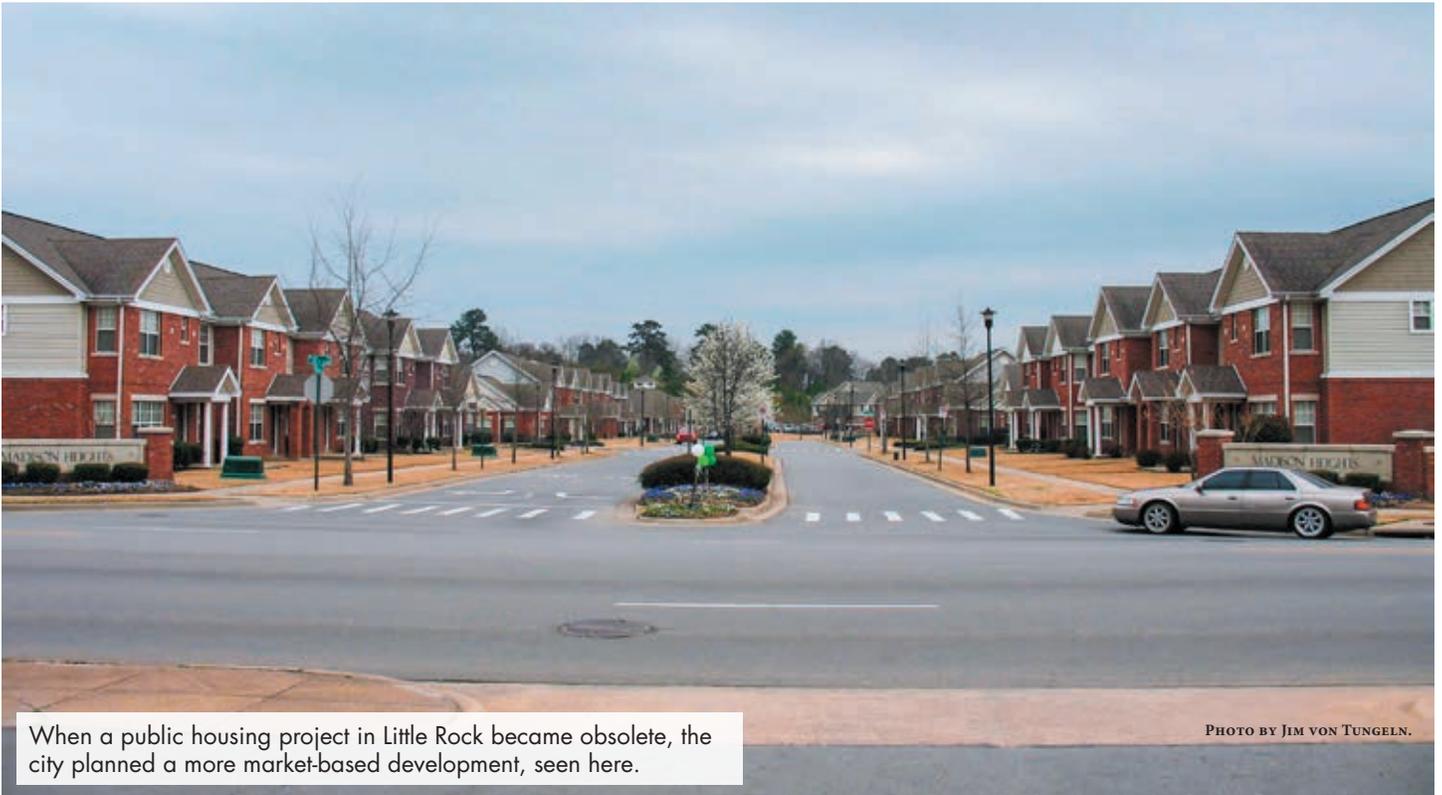
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When a public housing project in Little Rock became obsolete, the city planned a more market-based development, seen here.

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN.

What if the plans don't work?

By Jim von Tungeln

The most important question asked during the preparation of great plans is one that is only asked by citizens or cynics. That question is, “What if the plans don’t work?”

What if we build it and they don’t come?

What if we somehow figure out what a “sense of place” is, create one, and nobody likes it?

What if our “wayfinding devices” send folks the wrong way?

What if additional freeway lanes simply cause more congestion?

What if the latest roundabout is so complex and confusing that motorists get stuck on it for hours at a time, and some disappear forever?

What if we can’t pay the light bill on our sparkling new complex?”

What if, only after the bypass is built, we discover there are worse things than traffic congestion on Main Street?

What if personal characteristics—obesity and attention span for examples—alter the popularity of some recreational facilities?

What if that new park system floods? This contingency was tested this year as our cities and our state struggled with the most damaging floods in memory. It

is a common issue as limited municipal budgets force the use of environmentally suspect lands for recreational use.

Further, the so-called “City Beautiful Movement,” beginning around the arrival the 20th Century, concentrated urban planning along rivers and other bodies of water. Much of that development, though altered over the years, still exists and awaits the next disaster.

Should municipal leaders consider contingency plans? Yes, says the dynamic speaker, Dr. Rick Rigsby, who impressed the audience at the Arkansas Municipal League’s 85th Convention in June. He shared an incident involving a U.S. Navy SEAL team that illustrated the need to have backup plans for foreseeable obstacles. If it’s good enough for the SEALS, it’s probably good enough for our cities.

What then is a contingency plan? Some sources define it as a plan designed to take a possible future event or circumstance into account. Others call it a plan devised for alternate outcomes other than those considered in the usual plan. Urban plans, by their nature, take their best guess at “possible future events” and prepare accordingly. Some urban plans consider “alternative outcomes” and prepare accordingly. One might argue, then, that urban plans themselves occasionally include contingency plans.

Nonetheless, the very scale and timeframes involved in urban planning create difficulties. Take, for example, a modern concern among cities wrestling with the rising maintenance costs and changes in lifestyles. It flies right off the front page of the latest newspaper. Can golf courses that originated in a long-ago time still be maintained and operated at a cost that justifies their role in a city's modern park system?

Some 35 years ago, the author spoke with the city manager of a fast-growing Florida city. "I need three more golf courses this very moment," he said. He made no mention of a contingency plan for the day when the Baby Boomer generation aged, cell phones controlled the attention span, recreation choices changed, and maintenance costs soared.

As that example indicates, urban development poses difficulties in contingency planning. First, contingency plans are more commonly associated with business, where intended markets and product design can be altered relatively easily. New traffic corridors, though, can't be closed easily if it's discovered that damages to existing businesses and neighborhoods outweigh the additional convenience to the automobile. Urban plans take a long time to develop. Limited finances rule out many options for making changes. Finally, voter dissatisfaction or approval governs steps that might be used for alternative actions. Inaction becomes the norm.

But our cities do their best. Perhaps the best method of forming a contingency plan is to build it into the planning process in the first place. Even now, progressive cities in our state are building modified contingency plans into much of their thinking. How are they doing it? They do it by building operation and maintenance costs into the original funding plan for large-scale projects. This is not always an easy sell. It can reduce the amount of revenue that is available for construction, or require a longer payment period.

Perry Carr, a manager for ETC Engineers and Architects of Little Rock commented on this. The firm designs large-scale recreation systems for cities throughout the state, including those of Paragould and Batesville. Carr noted, "We prefer to work with cities that plan for long term maintenance." He added, "I can't imagine anything sadder than a municipal swimming pool complex closed because the city can't afford to operate it."

At the other end of the contingency plan spectrum is the last-resort type. This is well-illustrated by the famous films of the dynamiting of the Pruitt Igoe high-rise public housing towers in St. Louis, beginning on March 17, 1972. This was an experiment in moving low-income families from slums to gleaming new apartment towers. Its history was complex and the placing of blame slippery, but, in the end, the experiment failed and the towers fell.

In between these extremes are some steps municipalities might take in considering backup plans.

1. Identify both the benefits and unfavorable events that could affect completed plans. This involves a degree of "reality-thinking" that doesn't always appear during plan preparation. It is easy for enthusiasm or partisanship to overshadow honest appraisal.
2. Assess the impact and estimate the potential benefit or harm. Failed plans cost money, create ill will, erode faith in government, and can waste resources, including valuable land.
3. Consider contingencies. If a physical urban project fails, is there an alternate use for the site and improvements? If it succeeds beyond expectations, is there room for expansion? This is a tough step for municipal planners. Advocates can condemn considerations of possible failure as "negative thinking." Critics can condemn considerations of expansion as setting the stage for more taxes in the future, the old "camel's nose under the tent" ploy.
4. Consider, in the planning stage, what would be the early warning signs of possible problems. In most cases, the sooner they are addressed, the less cost to the city.
5. Add a "War Room" function to the planning process in city government. This allows communication and analysis on a constant basis. It can also build a rapid response to the original question of "what if it doesn't work?"

It would be nice for our cities if plans never failed. It would be nice for our cities if physical conditions—the climate, for example—never changed. It would be nice for our cities if revenue streams didn't suffer from things such as buying habits, the national economy, or international relations. It would be nice for our cities if population migrations were more equally balanced and more predictable. It would be nice if lifestyle choices didn't affect the demands placed upon our planned environment.

Equally important is the benefit of maintaining an accepted vision of our communities through changes of political administrations. This is a benefit that careful and reasoned planning can help create. This is especially true if a plan results from a broad consensus of participants, including the ones who ask, "What if it doesn't work?"



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

Painkillers a pain in the workplace

Employers agree that the use of street drugs is a problem in the workforce; however, prescription drugs are a greater problem to handle. In 2007 (before the current legalization of marijuana) some 2.5 million Americans abused prescription drugs. Compared to the same time, some 2.1 million used marijuana for the first time. Among teens, prescription drugs are the most commonly used drugs next to marijuana. Almost half of the teens abusing prescription drugs are taking painkillers, believing them to be much safer than using illegal street drugs. It is a dangerous pattern and can be a potential danger for an employer that hires teens for summer work or a permanent position. Teen workers should be drug-tested, just like any other person being hired.

Young people do not comprehend the risk they are taking by consuming these highly potent and mind-altering drugs. Long-term use of painkillers can lead to dependence and addiction, even for people who are prescribed them to relieve a medical condition. Unfortunately, the dangers of painkillers often don't surface until it is too late. In the 2007 study, abuse of the painkiller Fentanyl killed more than 1,000 people. This drug is 30-50 times more powerful than heroin.

What are painkillers? They are powerful drugs that interfere with the nervous system's transmission of the signals we perceive as pain. Most painkillers stimulate portions of the brain associated with pleasure. Thus, in addition to blocking pain, they may produce a "high."

The most powerful prescription painkillers are called opioids, which are opium-like compounds. They are manufactured to react on the nervous system in the same way as drugs derived from the opium poppy (like heroin). The most commonly abused opioid painkillers include: Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Meperidine, Propoxyphene, and Hydromorphone.

Oxycodone has the greatest potential for abuse and presents the greatest dangers. It is as powerful as Heroin and affects the nervous system the same way. It is sold under many trade names, such as Percodan, Endodan, Roxiprin, Percocet, Endocet, Roxicet, and OxyContin. It is sold in tablet form. No employee should be working in a safety or security role while on any of these drugs.

Hydrocodone is commonly prescribed by physicians. It is used in combination with other chemicals and is sold as a tablet, capsule, or syrup. Some trade names are: Anexsia, Dicodid, Hycodan, Hycomine, Lorcet, Norco, Tussinx, and Vicodin. Sales for these drugs have increased significantly in recent years, as has its illicit use.

Meperidine (the brand name for Demerol) and Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) are sold in tablets and Propoxyphene (Darvon) in capsules. All three drugs have been known to be crushed and injected, snorted, or smoked. Darvon has been banned in the UK since 2005, but it remains among the top 10 drugs reported in drug abuse deaths in the U.S. Dilaudid is considered eight times more potent than Morphine and is often referred to as "drug store heroin" on the streets. Other street names for these drugs are:

- Oxycodone—Oxy 80s, Oxycotton, Oxycet, Hillbilly Heroin, Percs, Perks.
- Hydrocodone—Pain killer, Vikes, Hydros.
- Propoxyphenes—Pinks, Footballs, Pink Footballs, Yellow Footballs, 65's, Ns.
- Hydromorphone—Juice, Dillies, Drug Street Heroin.
- Meperidine—Demmies, Pain Killer.

Opioid painkillers produce a short-lived euphoria and they are very addictive. Long-term use of painkillers can lead to physical dependence. The body adapts to the presence of the substance and if one stops taking the drug abruptly, withdrawal symptoms occur. If there is a continuance of drug use, the body could build up a tolerance to the drug, meaning that higher doses have to be taken to achieve the same effects. Symptoms of withdrawal can include restlessness, respiratory depression, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps, and involuntary leg movements. The most serious effect of opioid abuse is slowed breathing that can lead to death.

The use of painkillers is not going away. In fact, a national campaign is underway to restrict some unnecessary use of opioids, to restrict prescription dosing to a minimum amount, and to control repeat prescriptions. Pharmacies, hospitals, and medical providers are being monitored concerning opioid drugs (type of drug, quantity being dosed, frequency of refills, etc.) and doctors are strongly being encouraged to use alternative, non-addictive drugs instead of opioid drugs.

Employers should have a policy that requires employees to notify the employer if they are on any medications that might impact the ability to do their job safely or securely. Workers taking painkillers do not belong in the workplace while under the influence of the drugs.

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.

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Reinvigorating interest in Laurel's downtown started with building a more positive perception among residents and businesses.

One downtown's comeback

A revitalization story with Mallorie and Jim Rasberry and Josh Nowell of Laurel, Mississippi.

By Shelby Fiegel

At the 2019 Community Development Institute (CDI), Mallorie and Jim Rasberry and Josh Nowell of Laurel, Mississippi, shared their “downtown comeback” story as keynote speakers at the 33rd annual institute. Mallorie, Jim, and Josh are known for their recurring roles on the HGTV series *Home Town*, a home renovation series that focuses on the restoration of historic homes in Laurel, and are business partners of the Laurel Mercantile and the Scotsman General Store.

As residents and business owners in Laurel, they utilized community-wide preservation, promotion, and economic development efforts to revitalize their hometown, and they shared insights with our staff at the University of Central Arkansas about their journey.

CDI: As a resident and business owner in Laurel, what sparked your interest in restoring your downtown?

Josh Nowell: For us, the fact that we chose to live in Laurel meant that we didn't have a choice when it came to improving our city. It was important for our families that our time and resources be spent [improving] our place as much as they were spent

on our businesses. I mean, we do the same thing for our homes, so why wouldn't we do it for our city? Sometimes people think that in order to be successful in business, you have to sacrifice time volunteering to build your community. We discovered that there doesn't have to be separation between business success and town success. The two are intertwined and support one another. In fact, if you look at successful



entrepreneurs, it is often difficult to tell if their city made them or if they made their city.

What are some first steps communities can take in an effort to revitalize their downtown?

Jim Rasberry: The good news is any town can experience a revitalization if downtown residents, merchants, and supporters are willing to get their hands dirty, meaning that everyone brings value and there has to be an inclusive team atmosphere to bring everyone together. A game plan is important but having everyone on the same team is paramount to being successful.

How do you generate buy-in and interest from current downtown businesses and citizens in revitalization efforts?

Jim: Realizing everyone brings value and providing a way to share each other's vision for what your downtown can be. Let everyone have a voice and agree on the action plan. Making sure everyone has a voice in the direction of the revitalization effort is very important.

Mallorie Rasberry: One of the hardest things we had to do in the beginning was bringing pride back to our community. Before we could even think about telling anyone else about how wonderful we thought Laurel was, we had to get the local folks to believe in and be proud of their own community. We did this by rebranding the downtown district—new logos, new signage (when we could afford it), hosted events. But the most powerful thing we did was speaking positively about the downtown area as often as possible. We started changing the perception of downtown one conversation at a time. Positivity is a powerful thing.

What resources have you used as you restore historic places?

Mallorie: We've utilized our state and federal tax incentives as well as our city's tax abatement program. For any new developers out there, the earlier you start the conversation/application process with your local, state, and federal programs the better. Most of these programs have strict requirements, so it's best to get all of this information beforehand so there are no surprises. We also have a facade grant fund that we created within our Main Street Program: 25 percent of monies raised through all of our fundraising (mainly in the form of downtown events and festivals) goes into this matching fund, and any business or building owner can apply to get reimbursed up to \$5,000 of any improvement they do to the exterior of their building. We all know that cash flow is paramount to



From left, Josh Nowell and Mallorie and Jim Rasberry, HGTV hosts and proud Laurel residents.

a small business owner so no matter the scale of the project it's a big deal for [our local business owners] to invest in the way their buildings look. We want to support and encourage them as much as possible. We are also working to utilize the new federal program for Opportunity Zones. We recommend any community that is starting this revitalization process to research Opportunity Zones. If any of your downtown's footprint is in one of these zones, it's a game-changer for attracting investors.

What other pieces of advice would you give to a community looking to create their own "downtown comeback?"

Mallorie: Don't try to be something you're not. Laurel spent many years trying to reinvent ourselves. The same can be said about a lot of struggling communities out there. True change didn't happen in Laurel until we started embracing our strengths and telling our story. Authenticity brings sustainability. It doesn't happen overnight; it's taken us every bit of 12 years to get to where we are today and we still have so much left to do. Stay with it, stay positive, and celebrate every victory, no matter how small.

To learn more about Mallorie, Jim, and Josh visit www.downtowncomeback.com. To learn more about the Community Development Institute visit www.uca.edu/cdi.



Shelby Fiegel is managing director, Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Central Arkansas. Contact Shelby at sfiegel@uca.edu or (501) 450-5269.

Despite sudden popularity, CBD needs more study, regulation

By Igor Koturbash, M.D., Ph.D.

If you've recently been in a vitamin or drug store, or even the gas station, you've perhaps seen a display offering products infused with cannabidiol, or CBD—oils, candies, teas, lotions, even dog treats.

The problem is, regardless of what the packaging says, there's no guarantee how much, if any, CBD these products actually contain, or what else besides CBD might be in them.

That's very dangerous for several reasons.

The CBD bloom

Cannabidiol comes from the flowers of *Cannabis sativa* L., a plant containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Having lots of THC defines cannabis as marijuana, because THC is the chemical that makes you feel "high." But cannabis can also be bred with little or no THC and higher quantities of CBD. That's called hemp, and it can be processed to make paper, cloth, fuel, and other products.

Last year, Congress legalized industrial production of hemp. A new and very profitable industry was born from selling hemp-originated CBD. Many companies have started putting it in oils, ointments, or other products. The result has been a massive market of products containing a chemical that might prove helpful but is not entirely harmless.

Proven effects

From a medical perspective, CBD has been carefully studied and approved for only one use: the active ingredient in a drug called Epidiolex®, which helps treat rare forms of pediatric epileptic seizures.

Meanwhile many people, both patients and doctors, have claimed CBD has helped treat other conditions including anxiety, opioid use disorder, autoimmune diseases, and even cancer. As yet, there is no solid scientific evidence supporting these claims.

However, there is evidence that taking CBD is not safe in high doses. This is especially dangerous because products can't be relied on to accurately say how much CBD they contain.

A recent survey tested a handful of CBD products being sold in and around Oxford, Mississippi, only to find they actually contained anywhere from no CBD at all to 700 times the amount claimed. Some of them even (illegally) contained high levels of THC. You might feel good taking a CBD product like that, but you'd also fail a drug test.

Now consider that most CBD products aren't tested. Because they come from a plant, they may contain toxic pesticides. The process of extracting CBD from the plant can also introduce contamination. One Colorado company's products were found to contain synthetic cannabinoid, which can be much more dangerous than the natural chemical, and was almost fatal when taken by a child.

Labels won't mention any of this and aren't required to.

Known dangers

Our own studies with mice have shown that taking even small doses of CBD over time can cause conditions leading to liver problems. We don't know if these same effects will occur in humans. If they do, that's very alarming because—I stress again—you can't trust the label. Small-dose CBD products may actually contain very high doses.

Complicating this risk is another study we've done with mice in which, after daily small doses of CBD, we gave mice a moderate amount of acetaminophen to simulate a human taking a few Tylenol or other over-the-counter medicines known to contain this powerful drug. The amounts of acetaminophen or CBD alone were not enough to cause damage, but when combined they had devastating effects. Nearly 40 percent of the mice died from resulting liver damage.

Before taking CBD, consult a doctor or pharmacist if you're taking any other medications, even over-the-counter drugs. This chemical can interact with many common drugs, either stopping them from working or even causing harm.

To be clear: I cannot say that CBD is useless or should be banned. It may, very possibly, have positive health effects besides treating epileptic seizures. But those have to be proven first. Science should drive discovery, and the market should follow. Right now, the market is following the dollar before science can weigh in.



Igor Koturbash, M.D., Ph.D., is co-director of the UAMS Center for Dietary Supplements Research and vice chair and an associate professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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PHOTOS BY KRISTA QUINN.

Fig trees are small enough to fit in many home landscapes and require little specialized care to produce fruit.

Edible landscaping with trees

By Krista Quinn

Trees provide valuable shade, clean our air and water, make our surroundings more beautiful, and lower our home cooling costs. One benefit of some trees is their production of food for human consumption. Edible trees do not need to be relegated to orchards and can be used in traditional home landscaping or planted as street and park trees. Many communities are even planting edible trees as a way to combat hunger and malnutrition in low-income neighborhoods.

Some common fruit trees, such as apples, pears, peaches, and plums can be fairly difficult to grow in Arkansas. However, there are some less common edible trees that can be grown in Arkansas with very little specialized care. Figs, mulberries, persimmons, jujubes, serviceberries, and pecans are good low-maintenance choices. Pawpaws are also great native fruit trees, but it can be a little more challenging to grow them in home and community settings and have them produce fruit. Several universities are currently working to develop

pawpaw production methods and identify varieties that will perform better under cultivation, so growing pawpaws at home is becoming more common.

“A lot of fruit trees are really hard to grow without a lot of spraying,” says Kenny Smothers, county forester with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Commission. “Many fruit trees have a lot of insect and disease pests and we often get late frosts, which affect their fruit set, so it can be hard for home growers to get a decent amount of fruit from them.”

Smothers recommends choosing disease resistant varieties if homeowners want to try growing common fruit trees. Doing a little homework to learn as much as possible about fruit tree care before planting can also greatly improve one’s chances of success. The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service has several very informative publications about home fruit and nut production available at local extension offices or on their website.

For lower maintenance fruit trees, Smothers recommends figs, mulberries, and persimmons. Mulberries and persimmons are native to Arkansas and grow well in all parts of the state. There are also Asian varieties of mulberries and persimmons that can be grown in Arkansas. There are no native varieties of figs, but they are very well adapted to growing throughout the state.

“Figs are probably the easiest of all the fruit trees,” Smothers says. “You do need to choose a cold-tolerant variety in Northern Arkansas, but for the most part figs do really well without any extra care.”

Figs are relatively small trees, often only growing 15 to 30 feet tall, and can be fairly easy to fit into home landscapes. Fig trees are very tolerant of pruning and it can be desirable to prune trees so they stay short and the fruit are easy to reach while standing on the ground. Figs can even be grown as espaliers against walls or fences to fit them in even smaller areas.

Late frosts will occasionally damage fig trees and extreme cold during the winter can even kill the whole above ground portion of trees. However, winter damaged trees will almost always grow back from the roots. The best time to prune fig trees is in the spring after they begin to leaf out and it is easy to see limbs that have died over the winter due to cold. Some people are allergic to the sap of fig trees, so it is best to wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves when pruning figs. Sunlight can exacerbate the allergic reaction, so pruning in the evening or on cloudy days is also advised.

Other than pruning, very little additional care is required to produce a good crop of figs. Figs are also self-fruitful, so a single tree can produce fruit without cross-pollination from another tree. Many birds and other animals are attracted by ripe figs, but usually there is plenty of fruit to share. If animals do become a problem, hanging Mylar tape or scare eye balloons from the trees may help. If trees are small enough, they can also be netted to keep animals out.

Mulberries and persimmons are also very easy to grow and can produce large amounts of fruit. Red mulberries grow naturally throughout Arkansas and have fruit that look similar to blackberries. There is a lot of variation in the flavor of wild mulberries with some of them being almost tasteless and others being quite sweet. Red mulberries have been crossed with Asian varieties of mulberries to develop named cultivars that produce consistently large, sweet fruit. Illinois Everbearing is one of the most common named mulberry varieties and grows well in Arkansas.

Persimmons also grow in the wild in Arkansas, but they have a bad reputation for producing unappetizing, astringent fruit. Astringency in persimmon fruit is caused by tannins in the fruit, which will dissipate if the



Mulberry trees make great shade trees and produce an abundance of fruit.

fruit is allowed to fully ripen. Persimmon fruit ripening can be encouraged by placing the fruit in a plastic bag with an apple slice for three days. Asian persimmon varieties tend to have larger fruit and are less likely to be astringent. Asian persimmons are often grafted onto American persimmon rootstocks to make them more tolerant of our soil conditions.

Both persimmons and mulberries are fairly large trees and make good shade trees in yards and parks. In general, fruit trees are not recommended near paved surfaces, since fallen fruit can be messy and stain concrete. Several cities are experimenting with planting large, native fruit trees in parks to create “food forests” to help provide fresh, nutritious food in neighborhoods with limited access to affordable food.

“Growing fruit trees doesn’t have to be difficult as long as you pick the right kinds of fruit to grow,” Smothers says. “Some people even freeze the fruit during the growing season and are able to use it all winter, so it really does help with the grocery bill.”

Growing fruit trees can be a very rewarding endeavor with proper tree selection and planning. While putting food on the table is certainly the most obvious benefit, many people also find fruit trees to be attractive additions to their landscapes. Perhaps the greatest reward, though, is having a personal experience with how food is grown. This can especially be beneficial for children who may have never harvested food from a plant before.



Krista Quinn is the Urban Forestry Program coordinator with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Commission. Contact Krista at (479) 228-7929 or Krista.Quinn@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

Speaking the language of environmental site assessments

By Cody Traywick

Whether writing a grant, deciphering insurance policies, or engaging scientific professionals, one key aspect to gaining the most out of the encounter is understanding the terminology of that sector. The same holds true when dealing with environmental site assessments.

Knowing the players associated with an environmental site assessment (ESA), and ultimately their needs, is key to producing a report that satisfies those players' obligations. Typically, an ESA involves the users and producers of the report. The producer is the environmental professional, or other qualified professional, who conducts the tasks and/or oversees the tasks associated with the ESA. The users include those who will rely on or use the ESA report. Users may include lending institutions, developers, municipalities, property owners, lessors, grantees, or facility operators.

What is an environmental site assessment?

An environmental site assessment—commonly referred to as an ESA or, more specifically a Phase I ESA—is a review of the current and historical uses of a property with the intent of identifying potential impacts to the soil and groundwater that may pose a threat to the environment or human health. Typically, Phase I ESAs are administered during a commercial real estate transaction and are conducted in order to identify concerns that may present a liability to the lending institution or purchaser or that may affect the value of the property.

Environmental site assessments help outline past and present environmental conditions of a property.



Phase I ESAs help determine a baseline for certain environmental conditions of the property and potentially establish statutory protections from liability for those conditions.

Phase I ESAs can be completed on a variety of property types including vacant land, agricultural land, multifamily residential developments, commercial developments, and in industrial settings. In 1993, the American Society for Testing and Materials published “Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process” (ASTM Standard E1527). This is an international standard that seeks to lay out the components required for an ESA, put in writing a good commercial and customary practice, and facilitate high quality, standardized reports.

What does an environmental site assessment typically include?

In addition to a finalized report, a Phase I ESA typically includes three main components: records review, site reconnaissance, and interviews with persons knowledgeable of the site.

The records review portion includes a review of historical topographic maps, historical aerial photographs, fire insurance maps (Sanborn Maps), historical city directories, title records, and federal, state, tribal, and local regulatory databases.

The site reconnaissance should include a site visit by the environmental professional (EP) to observe current and past conditions, and uses of the property and adjoining properties. The EP must visually and physically observe the property and any structures located on the property. The EP should note any limiting conditions that obstruct the site reconnaissance portion, which could include: bodies of water, heavy vegetation, snow, or other obstacles that impede the EP's ability to detect environmental conditions or other significant features.

The standard also requires the EP to conduct interviews, ideally with persons who possess good knowledge of the uses and physical characteristics of the property, in an attempt to develop historical and current information on the property and its activities. Typical targets for interviews can include site managers, occupants, neighbors, past and current owners, and operators associated with the site.

Understanding the conclusions of a Phase I ESA report

Upon completion of the records review, site reconnaissance, and interview portions of the information gathering process, the EP will evaluate the research in order to identify potential environmental risks or concerns.

If the EP determines that the property does contain potential concerns, those concerns will likely fall into one of the four types of conditions as defined by the standard:

- REC—Recognized Environmental Conditions are conditions that are indicative of the presence, or likely presence, of any hazardous substances or petroleum products in, on, or at the property.
- HREC—A Historical Recognized Environmental Condition is defined as a past release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products that has occurred in connection with the property and has been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority or meeting unrestricted use criteria established by a regulatory authority, without subjecting the property to any required controls.
- CREC—Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition is a condition where there has been a past release of hazardous substances or petroleum products that have been addressed to the satisfaction of the applicable regulatory authority, with hazardous substances or petroleum products allowed to remain in place subject to the implementation of required controls.
- De Minimis Condition—A condition that generally does not present a threat to human health or the environment and that generally would not be the subject of an enforcement action, if brought to the attention of appropriate governmental agencies.

The closing sections of a Phase I ESA report typically include findings, opinions, and conclusions that summarize the information and concerns identified in the Phase I ESA process. The findings are the facts that were uncovered throughout the ESA process. The EP will provide his or her opinion on the findings or facts presented. Any conditions that constitute an REC



based on the judgment of the EP, their interpretation of the findings, and the EP's risk tolerance must be stated in the conclusions section of the report. The identification of an REC will often include a recommendation for a Phase II environmental site assessment to collect soil, groundwater, and/or soil vapors to confirm the presence of contamination.

Before you hire an EP to conduct a Phase I ESA, remember to make sure that the scope of work of the ESA is appropriate to your situation. It is up to the user and the EP to work out the contractual and legal obligations associated with the scope of work. Some typical services conducted beyond the scope of the ASTM standard may include surveys for asbestos, lead-based paint, mold growth, Radon, and lead in drinking water. Front-end discussions, ahead of an executed agreement, are essential to providing you with the appropriate assessment.



Cody Traywick is a geotechnical specialist/geologist with MCE's Geotechnical Engineering Department and works out of the Fayetteville office. Contact Cody by phone at (479) 443-2377 or email ctraywick@mce.us.com.



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Actual Totals Per Capita

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
January	\$5.3807	\$5.662	\$0.2314	\$0.246	\$2.1460	\$2.145
February	\$5.7121	\$5.675	\$0.2181	\$0.096	\$1.0867	\$1.087
March	\$4.9583	\$5.085	\$0.2452	\$0.438	\$1.0870	\$1.087
April	\$5.3609	\$5.401	\$0.2342	\$0.338	\$1.0854	\$1.085
May	\$5.6871	\$5.811	\$0.2369	\$0.227	\$1.0859	\$1.086
June	\$5.6422	\$6.017	\$0.1786	\$0.209	\$1.0872	\$1.088
July	\$5.9048	\$5.801	\$0.1625	\$0.182	\$2.9589	\$2.959
August	\$5.5464		\$0.1504		\$0.9368	
September	\$5.5992		\$0.1999		\$1.0873	
October	\$5.7310		\$0.1746		\$1.0871	
November	\$5.2853		\$0.2317		\$1.0869	
December	\$5.4642		\$0.2511		\$1.0871	
Total Year	\$66.2722	\$39.452	\$2.5145	\$1.735	\$15.8224	\$10.538

Actual Totals Per Month

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
January	\$10,171,403.10	\$10,702,464.91	\$437,461.72	\$464,101.95	*\$4,056,771.18	*\$4,054,867.57
February	\$10,797,904.69	\$10,728,532.32	\$412,277.48	\$181,468.75	\$2,054,332.65	\$2,055,501.82
March	\$9,372,912.56	\$9,611,591.51	\$463,496.06	\$828,851.20	\$2,054,888.05	\$2,055,055.19
April	\$10,133,933.55	\$10,209,400.74	\$442,746.74	\$638,095.99	\$2,051,743.46	\$2,051,915.02
May	\$10,750,634.53	\$10,985,547.22	\$447,755.63	\$428,651.27	\$2,052,679.36	\$2,052,767.40
June	\$10,665,832.80	\$11,374,227.00	\$337,582.28	\$395,730.25	\$2,055,168.34	\$2,056,915.45
July	\$11,162,170.00	\$10,966,523.76	\$307,247.09	\$343,609.83	** \$5,593,456.00	*** \$5,592,768.93
August	\$10,484,657.00		\$284,348.41		\$1,770,842.80	
September	\$10,584,484.30		\$377,800.40		\$2,055,387.11	
October	\$10,833,617.52		\$330,015.80		\$2,054,971.77	
November	\$9,991,022.76		\$438,040.74		\$2,054,702.54	
December	\$10,329,322.67		\$474,599.17		\$2,054,975.16	
Total Year	\$125,277,895.48	\$74,578,287.46	\$4,753,371.52	\$3,280,509.24	\$29,909,918.42	\$19,919,791.38

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

**Includes \$3,514,066.32 supplemental for July 2018

***Includes \$3,513,475.89 supplemental for July 2019

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2019 with 2018 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$59,187,540	\$59,272,899	\$49,660,885	\$50,925,990	\$108,848,426	\$110,198,889	\$188,294	\$68,417	
February	\$66,363,635	\$63,961,892	\$55,082,773	\$56,034,012	\$121,446,409	\$119,995,904	\$265,350	\$76,180	
March	\$55,016,953	\$51,260,662	\$49,926,480	\$44,932,987	\$104,943,433	\$96,193,649	\$241,046	\$79,235	
April	\$53,915,385	\$51,354,831	\$45,679,915	\$45,689,403	\$99,595,300	\$97,044,234	\$239,875	\$79,564	
May	\$61,136,496	\$60,844,519	\$51,962,167	\$53,613,192	\$113,098,664	\$114,457,712	\$233,250	\$75,253	
June	\$63,455,242	\$56,373,987	\$53,477,656	\$48,955,855	\$116,932,898	\$105,329,842	\$199,380	\$71,501	
July	\$62,196,778	\$59,973,977	\$52,242,794	\$52,379,093	\$114,439,573	\$112,353,069	\$239,855	\$84,551	
August		\$60,174,400		\$52,922,077		\$113,096,478		\$79,558	
September		\$58,128,177		\$51,260,076		\$109,388,253		\$111,033	
October		\$60,197,608		\$52,310,178		\$112,507,786		\$174,353	
November		\$57,456,746		\$50,423,804		\$107,880,551		\$202,659	
December		\$59,269,564		\$50,277,652		\$109,547,217		\$208,901	
Total	\$421,272,030	\$698,269,262	\$358,032,670	\$609,724,320	\$779,304,702	\$1,307,993,584	\$1,607,051	\$1,311,205	
Averages	\$60,181,719	\$58,189,105	\$51,147,525	\$50,810,360	\$111,329,243	\$108,999,465	\$229,579	\$109,267	

July 2019 Municipal Levy Receipts and July 2019 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2018 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garfield	10,763.92	Mountain View	193,161.84	192,300.36	COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Alexander	104,199.21	103,281.29	Garland	3,391.94	Mountaintown	10,979.97	19,526.91	Arkansas County	287,022.60	295,471.85
Alma	231,547.77	220,837.95	Gassville	19,409.72	Mulberry	25,381.49	26,636.58	Ashley County	281,554.09	238,157.68
Almyra	2,537.63	2,137.88	Gentry	121,689.22	Murfreesboro	28,207.59	32,256.87	Crosssett	68,517.57	57,956.84
Alpena	5,864.02	4,877.08	Gilbert	1,030.97	Nashville	114,390.33	126,949.00	Fountain Hill	2,177.33	1,841.74
Altheimer	3,020.14	2,834.77	Gillett	9,095.53	Newport	193,423.78	174,761.06	Hamburg	35,546.52	30,067.68
Altus	6,834.77	6,141.98	Gillham	2,227.03	Norfolk	5,340.04	5,215.47	Montrose	4,404.43	3,725.57
Amity	11,226.96	9,831.22	Gilmore	295.97	Norman	3,883.21	3,687.58	Parkdale	3,446.41	2,915.21
Anthonyville	1,037.68	870.84	Glenwood	71,462.53	North Little Rock	2,992,772.42	2,809,724.45	Portland	5,350.02	4,525.41
Arkadelphia	177,967.75	174,647.69	Goshen	9,023.31	Oak Grove	933.11	1,166.40	Wilmore	6,843.06	5,788.31
Ash Flat	105,065.75	103,597.98	Gosnell	15,045.87	Oak Grove Heights	6,287.38	5,549.37	Baxter County	518,234.43	980,318.63
Ashdown	129,422.71	136,897.20	Gould	12,316.24	Ola	19,295.65	15,547.90	Big Flat	1,568.89	1,556.82
Atkins	58,521.45	57,705.01	Grady	3,598.84	Oppo	3,710.81	3,748.52	Briarcliff	3,560.17	3,532.79
Augusta	26,799.00	28,019.69	Gravette	82,285.59	Osceola	77,300.71	86,117.64	Cotter	14,632.89	14,520.36
Austin	35,544.47	35,692.00	Green Forest	117,657.77	Oxford	1,348.28	1,737.31	Gassville	31,347.58	31,106.49
Avoca	6,621.74	7,184.32	Greenbrier	226,299.89	Ozark	159,753.14	160,487.00	Lakeview	11,178.32	11,092.35
Bald Knob	55,989.64	54,120.84	Greenland	32,682.38	Palestine	33,173.95	24,838.61	Mountain Home	187,783.75	186,339.58
Barling	48,842.83	50,200.15	Greenwood	237,082.65	Pangburn	7,882.41	8,341.46	Norfolk	7,708.67	7,649.38
Batesville	651,395.68	682,373.42	Greers Ferry	27,766.20	Paragould	329,524.21	332,934.80	Salesville	6,788.46	6,736.25
Bauxite	16,226.04	14,044.96	Guion	3,989.63	Paris	78,098.64	81,626.63	Benton County	914,623.41	814,705.26
Bay	10,387.51	11,711.23	Gum Springs	541.93	Patmos	586.67	94.33	Avoca	10,506.23	9,358.48
Bearden	11,264.37	12,919.84	Gurdon	23,482.89	Patterson	1,220.34	1,664.75	Bella Vista	571,082.56	508,694.58
Beebe	137,444.95	127,533.49	Guy	5,319.57	Pea Ridge	67,439.48	61,597.42	Bentonville	760,000.96	676,974.56
Beedeville	76.96	101.61	Hackett	5,735.40	Perla	276.17	2,574.07	Bethel Heights	51,067.17	45,488.33
Bella Vista	178,483.47	174,453.42	Hamburg	94,681.78	Perryville	23,048.90	22,902.60	Cave Springs	41,572.81	37,031.19
Belleview	1,864.07	1,672.22	Hardy	22,796.53	Piggott	67,541.66	70,213.45	Centerton	204,849.98	182,471.12
Benton	1,597,089.98	1,565,905.58	Harrisburg	62,717.55	Pine Bluff	1,295,737.63	1,409,725.73	Decatur	36,578.05	32,582.07
Bentonville	3,068,974.73	2,169,306.84	Harrison	531,103.81	Pineville	2,066.56	1,794.20	Elm Springs	2,949.50	2,627.28
Berryville	270,497.54	247,363.96	Hartford	4,088.51	Plainville	4,688.94	5,898.12	Garfield	10,807.64	9,626.96
Bethel Heights	84,538.46	93,678.92	Haskell	42,965.96	Pleasant Plains	10,713.61	8,701.48	Gateway	8,719.31	7,766.77
Big Flat	408.75	343.04	Hatfield	4,296.74	Plumerville	12,961.30	12,309.64	Gentry	73,737.38	65,681.93
Black Rock	237.61	17,983.18	Havana	3,358.56	Pocahontas	262,938.41	264,694.52	Gravette	67,020.28	59,698.64
Blevins	2,553.81	3,088.95	Hazen	74,177.71	Portia	3,872.84	2,628.62	Highfill	12,551.50	11,180.31
Blue Mountain	175.89	176.86	Heber Springs	155,497.18	Portland	7,150.04	6,181.99	Little Flock	55,652.88	49,573.08
Blytheville	344,134.56	372,035.61	Hector	3,366.42	Pottsville	29,746.78	30,425.71	Lowell	157,744.17	140,511.39
Bonanza	2,746.17	5,926.40	Helena-West Helena	255,213.32	Prairie Grove	122,856.14	100,669.13	Pea Ridge	103,210.80	91,935.53
Bono	18,455.40	17,493.50	Hermitage	5,071.92	Preston	75,494.02	61,671.20	Rogers	1,204,858.04	1,073,233.18
Booneville	125,064.47	119,267.22	Higginson	2,469.28	Pyatt	1,392.88	922.86	Siloam Springs	323,777.07	288,406.01
Bradford	11,311.02	11,884.80	Highfill	75,338.01	Quitman	19,875.73	23,693.51	Springdale	141,059.07	125,649.06
Bradley	3,397.74	2,259.04	Highland	29,033.04	Ravenden	2,072.14	2,187.95	Springtown	1,873.04	1,668.42
Branch	1,735.71	1,656.58	Holly Grove	6,223.58	Rector	27,512.83	25,191.82	Sulphur Springs	11,001.42	9,799.54
Briarcliff	1,046.85	927.30	Hope	170,720.58	Redfield	34,410.79	17,429.27	Boone County	448,105.43	473,013.30
Brinkley	146,661.45	147,848.92	Horatio	6,173.34	Rison	12,857.70	15,173.96	Alpena	4,728.48	4,991.32
Brookland	64,271.69	66,543.94	Horseshoe Bend	22,894.83	Rockport	17,975.69	17,980.32	Bellefonte	6,729.57	7,103.63
Bryant	1,258,249.94	1,195,340.54	Hoxie	14,974.48	Roe	516.21	535.59	Bergerman	6,507.22	6,868.93
Bull Shoals	36,198.08	32,532.07	Hughes	5,687.00	Rogers	3,423,952.17	3,333,645.35	Diamond City	11,591.46	12,233.77
Cabot	858,521.56	814,899.93	Humphrey	2,132.03	Rose Bud	18,436.29	22,507.09	Everton	1,971.44	2,081.02
Caddo Valley	57,464.54	59,172.09	Huntington	3,278.30	Rudy	9,299.88	9,423.49	Harrison	191,851.96	202,516.02
Calico Rock	41,936.36	25,541.13	Huntsville	127,939.06	Russellville	1,079,513.43	1,105,864.93	Lead Hill	4,016.99	4,240.27
Camden	317,787.84	310,215.15	Imboden	9,186.32	Salem	21,951.19	18,444.82	Omaha	2,505.06	2,644.30
Caraway	4,741.15	5,140.16	Jacksonville	602,099.32	Salesville	3,512.01	4,227.67	South Lead Hill	1,511.93	1,595.97
Carlisle	53,705.98	54,224.45	Jasper	28,415.76	Scranton	3,578.04	NA	Valley Springs	2,712.58	2,863.36
Cash	2,410.14	2,730.24	Jennette	148.34	Searcy	820,723.40	922,366.61	Zinc	1,526.75	1,611.61
Cave City	19,325.63	20,503.73	Johnson	47,629.85	Shannon Hills	9,897.03	8,161.00	Bradley County	133,242.62	133,583.57
Cave Springs	29,867.98	30,178.11	Joiner	3,160.79	Sheridan	237,172.49	216,472.82	Banks	1,028.84	1,031.47
Cedarville	4,892.45	4,753.71	Jonesboro	1,566,424.32	Sherrill	501.47	1,323.78	Hermitage	6,886.57	6,904.17
Centerton	239,234.79	238,514.96	Judsonia	10,494.39	Sherwood	796,316.11	460,304.54	Warren	49,807.30	49,934.60
Charleston	28,581.18	27,982.63	Junction City	6,106.12	Shirley	2,741.71	3,426.26	Calhoun County	88,261.36	126,217.29
Cherokee Village	21,704.34	15,987.37	Keiser	3,611.22	Siloam Springs	659,449.06	722,993.81	Hampton	25,017.78	35,776.42
Cherry Valley	4,849.95	5,480.33	Keo	1,336.02	Sparkman	4,155.61	3,022.75	Harrell	4,799.48	6,863.46
Chidester	3,096.31	2,755.07	Kibler	2,964.28	Springdale	2,777,493.51	2,697,360.78	Thornton	7,690.51	10,997.74
Clarendon	46,300.44	42,398.84	Kingsland	1,808.02	Springtown	216.83	75.72	Tinsman	1,020.36	1,459.16
Clarksville	401,649.57	370,312.98	Lake City	11,376.86	St. Charles	1,304.43	2,061.09	Carroll County	195,257.16	179,480.22
Clinton	91,797.87	97,635.41	Lake Village	81,591.41	Stamps	14,188.98	14,420.78	Beaver	714.81	657.05
Coal Hill	3,717.61	4,319.02	Lakeview	3,682.92	Star City	72,495.01	75,284.44	Blue Eye	214.44	197.12
Conway	2,724,309.63	2,563,860.29	Lamar	29,001.11	Stephens	5,253.93	5,949.70	Chicot County	117,028.23	121,123.63
Corning	82,455.82	7,281.37	Lead Hill	5,518.94	Strong	9,205.61	9,558.27	Dermott	21,308.03	22,053.71
Cotter	14,205.16	15,860.49	Lepanto	25,840.18	Stuttgart	566,590.33	590,422.39	Eudora	16,735.18	17,320.82
Cotton Plant	3,712.95	1,315.82	Leslie	5,707.49	Sulphur Springs	2,097.46	1,709.43	Lake Village	18,992.11	19,656.73
Cove	9,477.23	12,119.42	Lewisville	9,598.92	Summit	4,738.96	4,738.96	Clark County	412,072.22	421,066.29
Crawfordsville	7,184.81	9,304.37	Lincoln	40,778.98	Sunset	4,129.18	3,912.79	Clay County	89,133.96	92,185.72
Crosssett	228,608.56	309,889.24	Little Flock	NA	Swifton	4,716.79	4,365.58	Corning	24,059.26	24,883.00
Damascus	9,067.36	9,756.08	Little Rock	6,604,493.37	Taylor	8,178.76	8,648.80	Datto	1,068.66	1,105.26
Danville	37,731.40	40,964.23	Lockesburg	4,257.32	Texarkana	420,507.62	396,920.24	Greenway	2,233.51	2,309.99
Dardanelle	165,096.48	154,624.80	Lonoke	216,924.44	Texarkana Special	184,257.11	199,992.92	Knobel	3,067.08	3,172.08
Decatur	25,070.97	26,301.66	Lowell	429,649.91	Thornton	952.39	1,132.78	McDougal	1,987.72	2,055.78
Delight	3,540.75	4,773.15	Luxora	3,359.27	Tontitown	258,838.97	253,529.39	Nimmons	737.38	762.63
De Queen	139,942.86	121,785.62	Madison	1,400.05	Trumann	164,991.32	160,559.38	Peach Orchard	1,442.70	1,492.10
Dermott	24,963.26	25,034.29	Magazine	11,003.11	Tuckerman	7,922.02	15,149.23	Piggott	27,421.99	28,360.27
Des Arc	52,874.12	56,348.03	Magnolia	493,816.46	Turrell	5,061.08	4,071.77	Pollard	2,372.44	2,453.67
DeValis Bluff	11,788.21	12,228.18	Malmerv	329,061.88	Tyronza	3,647.17	3,221.42	Rector	14,085.03	14,567.27
DeWitt	179,355.62	165,155.30	Mammoth Spring	7,372.02	Van Buren	714,321.97	686,006.77	St. Francis	2,671.67	2,763.14
Diamond City	3,298.63	2,429.51	Manila	31,577.19	Vandervoort	364.84	427.52	Success	1,592.31	1,646.82
Diaz	3,398.88	28,803.01	Mansfield	32,376.91	Vilonia	97,570.21	98,084.77	Cleburne County	397,795.40	419,218.26
Dierks	12,962.66	17,082.72	Marianna	73,896.83	Viola	7,368.64	6,780.29	Concord	2,953.24	3,112.29
Dover	22,633.82	24,133.09	Marion	268,000.75	Wabbaseka	1,023.95	715.91	Fairfield Bay	2,214.93	2,334.22

Caraway	22,926.01	22,945.34	Cave City	2,212.01	2,336.64	Birdsong	450.11	468.74	Waldron	26,477.03	27,654.31
Cash	6,130.33	6,135.50	Cushman	6,171.79	6,519.52	Blytheville	171,481.56	178,580.02	Searcy County	69,712.62	70,069.60
Egypt	2,007.59	2,009.29	Magness	2,758.19	2,913.59	Burdette	2,096.86	2,183.66	Big Flat	6.82	6.85
Jonesboro	1,205,685.76	1,206,702.23	Moorefield	1,870.65	1,976.05	Dell	2,448.17	2,549.51	Gilbert	190.93	191.91
Lake City	37,319.74	37,351.20	Newark	16,057.58	16,962.29	Dyess	4,501.12	4,687.44	Leslie	3,007.12	3,022.52
Monette	26,905.36	26,926.00	Oil Trough	3,550.15	3,750.17	Etowah	3,853.39	4,012.91	Marshall	9,239.56	9,286.87
Crawford County	739,072.09	735,128.83	Pleasant Plains	4,765.39	5,033.88	Gosnell	38,951.12	40,563.50	Pindall	763.71	767.62
Alma	53,786.25	53,499.28	Southside	53,265.84	56,266.92	Joiner	6,232.52	6,585.28	St. Joe	900.08	904.70
Cedarville	13,836.14	13,762.32	Sulphur Rock	6,226.41	6,577.22	Keiser	8,332.55	8,677.48	Sebastian County	826,201.74	852,697.83
Chester	1,578.15	1,569.73	Izard County	47,331.45	56,137.93	Leachville	21,879.82	22,785.53	Barling	75,510.88	77,932.49
Dyer	8,694.73	8,648.34	Jackson County	258,967.18	312,813.95	Luxora	12,932.48	13,467.81	Bonanza	9,339.38	9,638.89
Kibler	9,538.40	9,487.51	Amagon	928.83	1,121.97	Manila	36,689.59	38,208.35	Central City	8,153.68	8,415.17
Mountainburg	6,262.99	6,229.57	Beedeville	1,014.14	1,225.00	Marie	922.18	960.35	Fort Smith	1,400,240.35	1,445,145.71
Mulberry	16,426.69	16,339.05	Campbell Station	2,416.87	2,919.40	Osceola	85,158.93	88,684.07	Greenwood	145,401.89	150,064.89
Rudy	605.46	602.22	Diaz	12,491.88	15,089.30	Victoria	406.20	423.01	Hackett	13,188.82	13,617.78
Van Buren	226,211.91	225,004.98	Grubbs	3,658.47	4,419.17	Wilson	9,913.43	10,323.81	Hartford	10,427.62	10,644.68
Crittenden County	1,323,898.53	1,345,551.74	Jacksonport	2,009.32	2,427.11	Monroe County	NA	NA	Huntington	10,313.92	10,644.68
Anthonyville	1,074.78	1,092.36	Newport	74,676.42	90,203.80	Montgomery County	175,267.86	53,948.85	Lavaca	37,178.83	38,371.15
Clarkedale	2,476.67	2,517.18	Swifton	7,563.37	9,136.01	Black Springs	651.48	697.25	Mansfield	11,743.25	12,119.85
Crawfordsville	3,197.64	3,249.94	Tuckerman	17,647.86	21,317.36	Greenwood	276.39	295.80	Midland	5,278.78	5,448.07
Earle	16,115.06	16,378.63	Tupelo	1,706.02	2,060.75	Mount Ida	7,080.73	7,578.19	Sevier County	279,588.42	308,301.71
Edmondson	2,850.51	2,897.13	Weldon	710.83	858.66	Norman	2,487.47	2,662.23	Ben Lomond	1,470.65	1,404.42
Gilmore	1,580.13	1,605.98	Jefferson County	401,691.47	760,742.07	Oden	1,526.70	1,633.96	De Queen	66,879.10	63,867.22
Horseshoe Lake	1,949.29	1,981.18	Alzheimer	10,068.70	10,960.85	Nevada County	143,304.69	117,578.40	Gilham	1,622.79	1,549.71
Jennette	690.93	702.23	Humphrey	3,151.58	3,430.84	Bluff City	1,319.31	1,082.47	Horatio	10,588.68	10,111.83
Jericho	794.40	807.40	Pine Bluff	502,237.77	546,739.46	Bodcaw	1,468.26	1,204.68	Lockesburg	7,495.25	7,157.70
Marion	82,411.09	83,758.97	Redfield	13,271.45	14,447.39	Cale	840.53	689.63	Sharp County	225,161.61	85,941.02
Sunset	1,189.60	1,209.06	Sherrill	859.52	935.68	Emmet	5,053.81	4,146.54	Ash Flat	10,437.46	10,279.78
Turrell	3,694.98	3,755.41	Wabbaseka	2,809.27	2,840.47	Prescott	35,068.10	28,772.62	Cave City	18,553.12	18,272.83
West Memphis	175,202.85	178,068.38	White Hall	56,544.35	61,554.56	Rosston	2,776.93	2,278.41	Cherokee Village	41,302.53	40,678.54
Cross County	279,948.87	294,388.22	Johnson County	129,729.90	121,875.78	Willisville	1,617.22	1,326.89	Evening Shade	4,601.00	4,531.49
Cherry Valley	7,087.90	7,561.52	Clarksville	95,290.99	89,521.88	Newton County	38,830.94	64,417.35	Hardy	7,774.84	7,657.38
Hickory Ridge	2,961.46	3,191.46	Coal Hill	10,507.14	9,871.01	Jasper	2,419.15	2,577.80	Highland	11,129.74	10,961.60
Parkin	12,030.91	12,834.84	Hartman	5,388.54	5,062.31	Western Grove	1,993.46	2,124.20	Horseshoe Bend	85.20	83.92
Wynne	91,097.42	97,184.70	Knoxville	7,589.64	7,130.15	Ouachita County	618,794.92	543,715.15	Sidney	1,927.74	1,898.61
Dallas County	153,398.87	138,970.01	Lamar	16,663.98	15,655.10	Bearden	9,497.38	8,345.05	Williford	798.79	786.71
Desha County	108,284.29	117,436.69	Lafayette County	70,959.95	74,949.72	Camden	119,779.13	105,246.06	St. Francis County	144,150.08	153,515.88
Arkansas City	4,190.76	4,544.97	Bradley	3,344.24	3,532.27	Chidister	2,841.35	2,496.60	Caldwell	9,484.68	10,100.92
Dumas	53,884.51	58,438.94	Buckner	1,464.44	1,546.78	East Camden	9,153.28	8,042.69	Colt	6,459.84	6,879.54
McGehee	48,308.28	52,391.39	Lewisville	6,816.29	7,199.54	Louann	1,612.39	1,416.76	Forrest City	262,682.98	279,750.16
Mitchellville	4,122.06	4,470.47	Stamps	9,015.60	9,522.51	Stephens	8,760.01	7,697.13	Hughes	24,626.00	26,226.00
Reed	1,969.43	2,135.89	Lawrence County	280,419.77	332,795.73	Perry County	102,234.18	121,299.71	Madison	13,141.84	13,995.70
Tillar	240.45	260.78	Alicia	756.64	897.96	Adona	1,025.22	1,080.98	Palestine	11,637.96	12,394.10
Watson	2,416.00	2,620.19	Black Rock	4,039.47	4,793.95	Bigelow	1,545.19	1,629.23	Wheatley	6,066.78	6,460.96
Drew County	399,615.49	401,545.82	Hoxie	16,963.33	20,131.70	Casa	838.82	884.44	Widener	4,665.42	4,968.60
Jerome	498.60	501.01	Imboden	4,131.00	4,902.57	Fourche	304.13	320.67	Stone County	95,899.66	95,988.09
Monticello	121,033.04	121,617.68	Lynn	1,757.35	2,085.59	Houston	848.63	894.78	Fifty Six	1,751.36	1,752.98
Tillar	2,608.08	2,620.68	Minturn	2,665.11	789.34	Perry	1,324.45	1,396.48	Mountain View	27,819.30	27,844.96
Wilmar	6,533.00	6,564.55	Portia	6,654.54	3,164.59	Perryville	7,161.86	7,551.32	Union County	577,508.41	543,680.36
Winchester	2,135.05	2,145.37	Powhatan	439.34	521.40	Phillips County	111,396.02	114,486.93	Calion	16,836.23	15,850.03
Faulkner County	789,454.81	759,371.65	Ravenden	2,867.90	3,403.56	Elaine	12,469.88	12,815.88	El Dorado	716,867.19	674,876.03
Enola	2,403.88	2,312.28	Sedgwick	927.49	1,100.73	Helena-West Helena	197,597.62	203,080.37	Felsenthal	4,125.43	3,883.77
Holland	3,961.43	3,810.47	Smithville	475.95	564.85	Lake View	6,685.77	8,926.79	Huttig	23,075.96	21,724.26
Mount Vernon	1,031.25	991.95	Strawberry	1,842.78	2,186.97	Lexa	5,607.52	5,763.11	Junction City	20,583.90	19,378.18
Twin Groves	2,382.55	2,291.76	Walnut Ridge	32,572.04	38,655.73	Marvell	23,253.57	23,898.79	Norphlet	25,971.31	24,450.02
Woolster	6,116.38	5,883.32	Lee County	31,520.32	31,935.24	Pike County	161,307.81	174,989.20	Smackover	68,327.43	64,325.08
Franklin County	198,958.84	220,968.22	Aubrey	976.75	989.61	Antoine	1,034.48	1,122.22	Strong	19,440.79	18,302.02
Altus	6,180.76	6,864.60	Haynes	861.84	873.18	Daisy	1,016.79	1,103.03	Van Buren County	260,903.38	299,856.17
Branch	2,992.53	3,232.62	LaGrange	511.36	518.09	Delight	2,466.83	2,676.06	Clinton	23,175.97	26,636.14
Charleston	20,564.49	22,839.73	Marianna	23,643.11	23,954.34	Greenwood	19,327.94	20,967.24	Damascus	2,226.75	2,266.34
Denning	3,698.31	4,107.49	Moro	1,241.05	1,257.38	Murfreesboro	14,509.22	15,739.82	Fairfield Bay	19,194.55	22,060.29
Ozark	30,039.48	33,363.03	Rondo	1,137.63	1,152.61	Pointsett County	129,009.93	131,438.35	Shirley	2,591.93	2,978.91
Wiederkehr Village	309.86	344.15	Lincoln County	123,961.94	55,071.04	Fisher	1,929.56	1,965.88	Washington County	1,595,930.50	1,584,879.71
Fulton County	181,041.53	102,845.44	Gould	4,199.29	4,359.23	Harrisburg	19,918.57	20,293.50	Elkins	47,959.64	47,627.55
Ash Flat	454.56	406.88	Grady	2,252.67	2,338.46	Lepanto	16,379.60	16,687.93	Elm Springs	31,804.05	31,583.83
Cherokee Village	3,533.99	3,163.33	Star City	11,408.84	11,843.34	Marked Tree	22,202.89	22,620.82	Farmington	108,198.98	107,449.78
Hardy	187.17	167.54	Little River County	189,045.14	199,164.13	Trumann	63,130.27	64,318.60	Fayetteville	1,332,655.05	1,323,427.28
Horseshoe Bend	75.76	67.81	Ashdown	38,560.56	40,624.59	Tyronza	6,593.37	6,717.48	Goshen	19,397.57	19,263.26
Mammoth Spring	4,353.99	3,897.31	Foreman	8,254.23	8,696.05	Waldenburg	527.82	537.75	Greenland	23,436.47	23,274.19
Salem	7,286.35	6,522.12	Ogden	1,469.60	1,548.26	Weiner	6,195.35	6,311.97	Johnson	60,746.47	60,325.84
Viola	1,501.84	1,344.32	Wilton	3,053.49	3,216.94	Polk County	245,707.05	262,094.56	Lincoln	40,733.10	40,451.05
Garland County	2,180,908.46	2,175,752.65	Winthrop	1,567.57	1,651.47	Cove	7,307.24	7,861.80	Prairie Grove	80,162.15	79,607.08
Fountain Lake	7,463.10	7,386.49	Logan County	302,056.70	319,137.58	Grannis	10,688.78	11,401.68	Springdale	1,162,677.24	1,154,626.45
Hot Springs	241,195.30	221,487.73	Blue Mountain	1,072.04	1,132.67	Hatfield	7,968.36	8,499.80	Tontitown	44,554.65	44,246.14
Lonsdale	1,394.70	1,380.38	Booneville	34,495.57	36,446.25	Mena	110,688.76	118,071.52	West Fork	41,964.69	41,674.11
Mountain Pine	11,424.63	11,307.35	Caulksville	1,841.49	1,945.63	Vandervoort	1,678.56	1,570.18	Winslow	7,081.67	7,032.62
Grant County	211,388.46	208,645.41	Magazine	7,322.74	7,736.83	Wickes	14,547.56	15,517.82	White County	1,051,790.26	1,193,923.30
Greene County	554,546.96	553,334.94	Morrison Bluff	553.31	584.60	Pope County	360,461.35	373,524.92	Bald Knob	32,514.90	36,908.78
Delaplaine	1,430.44	1,427.31	Paris	30,353.93	32,262.69	Atkins	43,290.39	44,859.28	Beebe	82,100.97	93,195.63
Lafe	5,647.76	5,635.41	Ratcliff	1,746.39	1,845.15	Dover	19,779.23	20,496.05	Bradford	8,518.75	9,669.92
Marmaduke	13,700.13	13,670.19	Scranton	1,936.59	2,046.11	Hector	6,459.11	6,693.20	Garner	3,187.52	3,618.26
Oak Grove Heights	10,962.57	10,938.61	Subiaco	4,945.24	5,224.87	London	14,913.37	15,453.84	Georgetown	1,391.73	1,579.80
Paragould	322,008.52	321,304.76	Lonoke County	291,771.75	296,013.10	Pottsville	40,735.45	42,211.75	Griffithville	2,525.32	2,866.58
Hempstead County	357,134.81	387,428.63	Allport	1,179.81	1,196.96	Russellville	400,751.83	415,275.58	Higginson	6,969.88	7,911.75
Blevins	3,334.64	3,617.50	Austin	20,908.26	21,212.19	Prairie County	66,383.92	67,172.17	Judsonia	22,660.54	25,722.76
Emmet	455.21	493.82	Cabot	243,922.82	247,468.62	Biscoe	2,758.56	2,791.31	Kensett	18,496.57	20,996.09
Fulton	2,127.82	2,308.31	Carlisle	22,713.88	23,044.06	Des Arc	13,048.04	13,202.98	Letona	2,862.03	3,248.79
Hope	106,867.32	115,932.30	Coy	984.88							

Three cities awarded AARP Community Challenge grants

Three Arkansas cities are among the recipients of AARP Community Challenge grants for 2019, the association has announced. The program awards more than \$1.6 million for “quick action” projects across the country, helping nonprofits and local governments make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress for local developments. Arkansas grantees include the city of Benton, Main Street West Memphis, and Main Street Batesville.

Deborah Abernathy, executive director of Main Street West Memphis, says their \$6,000 grant will go toward a small park that displays art-painted, salvaged bicycles near the building that housed the historic KWEM radio station.

“Many of the original blues and rockabilly players—like Elvis and Johnny Cash, and Howlin’ Wolf and Sonny Boy James—all came here when Memphis closed down and would record their music,” says Abernathy. “And then it would go directly on the radio.”

Abernathy says the goal is to attract more people, particularly cyclists, farther into West Memphis to see what the area has to offer.

The projects must focus on outcomes that create vibrant public places, or deliver a range of transportation, mobility, and affordable housing options. This year, more than 150 projects received funding nationwide.

Brad Jordan, community and economic development director for the city of Benton, says their \$14,000 grant will go toward putting thermal plastic crosswalks in front of the city’s courthouse to improve walkability.

“We want to raise everyone’s bottom line here, our small businesses,” says Jordan. “So, it’s to attract people into our downtown and for them to walk around and shop in our stores, and also just improve the quality of life. It’s not only about the money, but it’s about the way people feel when they come into downtown.”

Main Street Batesville will get \$5,000 to construct a sidewalk to the Maxfield Park development in the downtown district. It will feature a meditation garden, waterfall, and green space when it opens in September.

AARP’s Community Challenge grant program is part of its nationwide Livable Communities initiative.

Mountain Home approves entertainment district

Mountain Home’s new entertainment district debuted the evening of July 24, the *Baxter Bulletin* has reported. The city became the first in the state to establish an entertainment district with the passage of an ordinance by the city council in June. The district is centered in the city’s downtown, running from Hickory Street to South Church and from 5th Street to 8th Street, including part of South Main Street. Adult pedestrians will be able to leave a restaurant or bar with a single, commercially branded paper or plastic cup of beer, wine, or a mixed drink to be consumed within the boundaries of the district between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and midnight daily.

The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 812 of 2019 in April, permitting the creation of such entertainment districts in cities. Little Rock’s River Market will soon be an entertainment district after the city board passed the measure in late July, and the cities of Bentonville, El Dorado, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, and Texarkana have expressed interest in establishing similar districts. 🍷



You may now reach the Municipal Health Benefit Program, the Workers’ Compensation Trust, and the Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs directly, by phone or by fax, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

Municipal Health Benefit Program

(501) 978-6137

Fax (501) 537-7252

Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Trust

(501) 978-6127

Fax (501) 537-7253

Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs

(501) 978-6123

Fax (501) 978-6562

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Aug. 23-24

35th Frisco Festival

Rogers

(479) 936-5487; visitrogersarkansas.com

Aug. 31

35th Leachville Harvest Festival

Leachville

(870) 530-4333

Sept. 7

76th White River Carnival

Batesville

(870) 793-2378; mybatesville.com

Sept. 14

Bay Fest in the Park

Bay

(501) 884-6010

MEETING CALENDAR

Nov. 20-23, 2019

**National League of Cities
2019 City Summit**

San Antonio, Texas

February 12-14, 2020
**Arkansas Municipal League
2020 Winter Conference**

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

March 8-11, 2020
**National League of
Cities Congressional City
Conference 2020**

Washington, D.C.



ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

No fees allowed under Ambulance Licensing Act

Opinion: 2018-081

Requestor: Mary Bentley, State Representative

May a city or county impose a fee on residents in order to provide emergency medical services under the Ambulance Licensing Act, Ark. Code Ann. sec. 14-266-105, or any other legal authority? Q2) May cities and counties enter into agreements in order to fund joint emergency medical services with a private emergency medical service provider? **RESPONSE:** Q1: In my opinion, neither a city nor county may impose a fee on residents in order to provide emergency medical services under Ark. Code Ann. sec. 14-266-105, but a county may impose a fee on residents to provide emergency medical services under Ark. Code Ann. sec. 20-13-305. Q2: Broadly, counties and cities plainly have the power to jointly purchase emergency medical services. But if this question is focused more narrowly on the means of funding such services, then it must be recognized that cities and counties can only do jointly what either of them would be authorized to do independently.

To read full Attorney General opinions online, go to www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search.

Obituaries

ROBERT BRUCE NEWKIRK, Sr., 85, a former Saint Charles council member, died July 13.

MUNICIPAL MART

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

CITY ATTORNEY—The city of Temple, Texas, seeks applicants for the position of city attorney. Temple is situated along the Central Texas technology corridor with San Antonio and Austin to the south, and Dallas and Fort Worth to the north. A principal city in the Killeen-Temple- Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area, Temple covers 75.15 square miles and offers an exceptional quality of life to approximately 79,286 residents. The city seeks an experienced, ethical, customer-friendly legal professional to serve as its city attorney. View complete job description and apply online at bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches. For more information on this position contact Lissa Barker, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, at (817) 266-0647 or email LissaBarker@governmentresource.com.

CODE INSPECTOR/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—The city of Bald Knob is accepting applications for the position of code inspector/enforcement officer. Must be a U.S. Citizen at least 21 years of age and possess HS diploma or equivalent, must possess a valid DL. Applicants should have a clean criminal background free of felony convictions and pass a drug test. Preference will be given to candidates who possess Inspection I Certification and International Building Code Certification. Applications may be picked up at 3713 Hwy 367, Room 103. The city of Bald Knob is an equal opportunity employer.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—The city of Fort Smith is seeking a new finance director. Fort Smith is located on the Arkansas River at the Arkansas-Oklahoma border, “where the New South meets the Old West.” Fort Smith is the second largest city in the state with a population approaching 90,000. This thriving community is a hub for commerce and boasts a diverse economy, a rich history, and a promising future. The Finance Department serves as a vital part of city operations with 19 staff. The finance director directly supervises the deputy director/controller, finance manager, accounting manager, and the contracts/procurement officer. The ideal candidate will possess knowledge of programming requirements for financial systems and experience with spreadsheet software. The new finance director should have demonstrated problem solving and analytical ability, as well as excellent interpersonal skills. A Bachelor’s degree in Business Admin., with a concentration in accounting, finance, or a related area, is required along with at least seven years of progressively responsible managerial experience. Certification as a CPA or CPFO is strongly desired. Possession of an MBA and experience with governmental fund accounting is a plus. The salary range is \$76,000 to \$113,788. However, a salary study is planned. Please apply online at: bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, at (405) 269-3445 or email GaryHolland@governmentresource.com.

FIRE MARSHAL/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER—Tontitown is accepting applications for the position of fire marshal/code enforcement officer. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age and possess HS diploma or equivalent and a valid DL. Applicants should have a clean criminal background free of felony convictions. Preference will be given to candidates who possess FF1 and FF2 certifications as well as Inspection 1 certification, and who are familiar with the International Fire Code and International Building Code. Applications may be found at www.tontitown.com Please mail applications and resumes along with salary requirements to City of Tontitown, P.O. Box 305, Tontitown, AR 72770; or email adminasst@tontitownar.gov.

POLICE CHIEF—Hackett is accepting applications for the position of police chief. Must have a minimum of three years’ experience in law enforcement and proficient in computer skills. Resumes and qualifications may be mailed to City of Hackett, P.O. Box 209 Hackett, AR 72937; or email hackettcityoffice@centurytel.net.

POLICE OFFICER—The Osceola Police Department is soliciting highly motivated individuals for the full-time position of police officer. Arkansas certified officers are preferred, however non-certified applicants will be considered. Those selected to fill open positions will be enforcing local, state, and federal laws, as well as investigating crimes, enforcing traffic regulations, investigating traffic collisions, and assisting the public. Pay starts at \$19.43 per hour, DOQ. Includes generous benefits package, paid holidays, sick, and vacation time. Qualified applicants must have above-average written and verbal skills. Requirements: Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, 21 years of age or older at the time of application, and have a HS diploma or equivalent, college preferred. Applicants must have a clean criminal record, verified by a background investigation and possess a valid DL. Applicants must pass a general physical examination with drug test, a psychological examination and have vision correctable to 20/20. Work schedule requires weekend, holiday, rotating shift work, overtime, and court appearances. If hired, applicant must live within the Osceola city limits. EOE.

PROJECT ENGINEER—Rogers seeks applicants for the position of project engineer, which serves as a civil engineering authority for the city. This position reviews plans and executes construction projects related to streets and drainage. This position answers questions from the public, fellow employees, and elected officials regarding street and drainage issues within the city. Technical degree required in such disciplines as Engineering, etc., plus 5 years related experience and/or training, and 3 years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Starting salary \$70,530. For a complete job description and to apply online, visit www.rogersar.gov.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR—Danville has an immediate opening for a licensed water/wastewater operator. Full-time, sick leave, vacation, health insurance paid, IRA. Send resume to Jerry Pendergraft at danville@arkwest.com.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATORS—The city of Glenwood is seeking licensed personnel for water plant operator and wastewater operator. This is two positions or a single operator with appropriate credentials will be considered. The facilities require: water T-3 and D-2. Wastewater class 3. Applicants with T-2 and class 2 will be considered if willing to advance their licensure. Salary is negotiable. Excellent benefit package includes vacation, sick leave, holidays, insurance paid, retirement co-match. Interested parties should email the mayor at bt@glenwoodar.com or call Mayor Smith at (870) 356-3613 Ext. 3. Applications will be accepted through August 15.



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