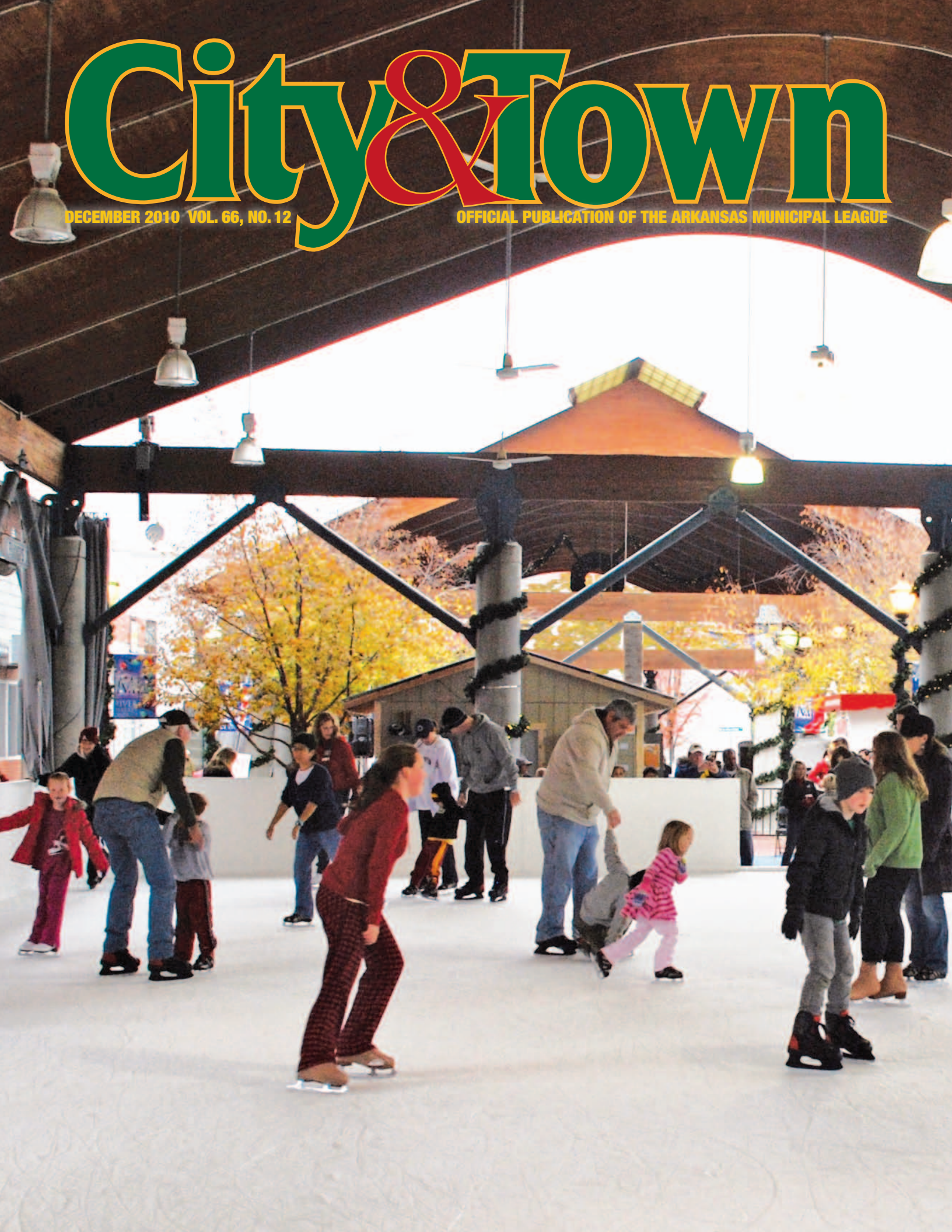


City & Town

DECEMBER 2010 VOL. 66, NO. 12

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Austin Zamora, the 19-year-old elected in November to the Caraway City Council, may be young, but he's anything but apathetic when it comes to local issues.

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ON THE COVER—Ice skating is back in downtown Little Rock after a 10-year absence. Dubbed the “Rivermarket On Ice,” the rink offers the opportunity to skate—or wobble—across the ice this holiday season in the Rivermarket pavilion, which overlooks the Arkansas River and riverfront park. The rink opened Nov. 20 and runs through Jan. 9. In this issue meet Dumas Alderman T.C. Pickett, the League’s 2010-2011 District 4 vice president. Read also inside about municipalities’ role in the Highway Department’s bridge inspection program, about Caraway’s newly elected 19-year-old alderman and much more. And don’t forget to register for the 2011 League Winter Conference if you haven’t already. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!—atm

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Cover Photo courtesy Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau



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Dear Friends:

With renewed excitement the brave of heart have returned from the Congress of Cities in Denver. Conference workshops covered various aspects of economic development, finance and tax policy, democratic governance and civic engagement, creating thriving communities, infrastructure, public safety and sustainability. Two of the sessions that included Arkansas goals hit home with our group:

- **Financing Renewable Energy**—This session provided an overview of various programs and policies that local governments may use to promote energy efficiency and renewable resources. Does this sound familiar? If it doesn't the League will help you. They have planned a one-day seminar on Jan. 26 for Arkansas municipal leaders entitled "Putting Sustainability to Work for You." The seminar will be led by the president of the Association of Energy Engineers, Eric Woodroof, Ph.D, a strategic advisor, corporate trainer and keynote speaker on corporate and organization environmental issues who has made presentations in 81 countries.
- **Urban Agriculture as a Strategy for Community Development**—Strategies on how to promote and facilitate agriculture and access to fresh healthy foods were presented to local leaders by other city representatives and experts in the field. Arkansas Surgeon General Dr. Joe Thompson will expand upon this issue at our Winter Conference. Visit the representatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity in the exhibit hall at Winter Conference for more information.



Winter Conference

Did you see your name on the Winter Conference Badge cover of *City and Town*?
Last call for the 2011 *Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials*

If you haven't yet, please fill out and return to the League your *Directory* Information Request Form. The new directory will be published in early 2011.

A new NLC report, "Making Local Democracy Work," discusses issues that are evidenced by the results of the recent elections. The report gives us information about the views of municipal officials and their constituencies' relationship to the ongoing dialogue about democracy. The government side of the citizen/government relationship is too often neglected. The study surveyed elected and managerial municipal officials about public engagement. It defined public engagement as "proactive efforts to involve people in deliberating public issues and in helping to solve problems." (See related story about the survey report in the Oct. 4 issue of *Nation's Cities Weekly*.) There are management issues that have accumulated around the topic of government/citizen relationships. For example, a quick count of vital vocabulary in a publication from a major democracy organization yields 13 "weighty" terms like democracy, community and self-government on just the first page. The NLC survey asked about the rewards and benefits that officials think accrue from effective public engagement. Two items were selected most frequently as being most important: "build a stronger sense of community" and "build trust between citizens and government." Ask yourself the question: Have I done this?

Murray Witcher
President, Arkansas Municipal League
Alderman, North Little Rock

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Community comes first for Dumas alderman

By Andrew Morgan

If his record of nearly four decades of public service doesn't convince you that T.C. Pickett is devoted to his community, talking to him about his beloved Desha County city of Dumas will set you straight.

Dumas Alderman and League 2010-2011 District 4

Vice President T.C. Pickett grew up about four miles north of Dumas in a small country community. Pickett moved to Dumas to in 1951 with his family, who brought their grocery business to Dumas. He's made Dumas his home ever since, with the exception of a year or so when, out of high school, he moved north to Chicago then to Eerie, Ind., where he worked in a steel mill before returning to his Delta home.

Pickett has eight children. His wife, Geneva, is a semi-retired educator with Dumas Public Schools, where she teaches 5th grade reading and spelling.

"Her hardest job is teaching me to do it right," Pickett jokes. "You can't hardly train an old dog."

Pickett worked many years for the family grocery. From 1961-1977 he was employed with United Dollar Stores until Dollar General bought the company. He worked for Dollar General until retiring in 1990. Pickett also drove a school bus for 32 years for Dumas Public Schools.

His community involvement started when he joined the local chapter of the Jaycees, and from there it spread.

"It's been a pleasant journey. There've been a few bumps in the road, but I've made a lot of friends."

From the Jaycees, Pickett went

on to land a spot on the housing authority commission, and from there he won a seat on the city council. He has also worked as a volunteer for the city's annual Ding Dong Daddy Days festival for 35 years.

First elected to the council in 1972, Pickett has

represented Ward 1, Position 2 ever since.

"I'm trying to make 40 years," he says. "No one else in Dumas has ever served that long in city government."

He has yet to have an opponent for the position, which reflects his dedication to his community. He has missed only one council meeting in his 38 years as an alderman. Pickett has also been very involved in the local Chamber of

Commerce, and he has missed only one Chamber meeting in 36 years. He was Chamber secretary/treasurer for 15 years, and has been named their Man of the Year. He



Dumas Alderman and League District 4 VP T.C. Pickett has made his city a priority for nearly 40 years.



The city's municipal complex, which houses emergency services, police and courts, is one of many improvements Pickett has been involved with during his longtime service.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

The city-owned Delta Memorial Hospital has been able to improve its service to the region after moving into its new home in 2006.

also leads their Summer Fan program, distributing fans to people who need relief from the dense Arkansas heat. He has received the Chamber's perfect attendance award 28 times.

"After that they stopped doing it because they said, 'You're going to get it anyway.'"

Pickett has seen many improvements made to his community in his 38 years of service. The city's drainage system has been greatly improved in recent years, he says. Being a Delta community, Dumas is very flat. It doesn't take much rain to stress its drainage capacity.

Dumas didn't have a municipal airport when he came on board, he says. The Billy Free Municipal Airport, named for Dumas' longtime Mayor and 1963 League President Billy Free, has been a big help to the city's economic development.

"The airport is a big thing for Dumas," Pickett says, "and we're steadily making improvements."

In his time, Dumas has built a new city hall, new emergency services building and police headquarters. The city's community center is another development that's been important for the city, Pickett says. It allows

the city to host large events that the city couldn't host before.

"It has brought people into the community. It gave us a place to showcase our community."

Housing has also been an issue important to Pickett. He's been instrumental in seeing to it that Dumas has adequate housing for low-income families.

"It gives us some kind of relief, because we had a lot of people who didn't have a decent place to live."

"For a small community like us, to place 44 people like this...it makes a big difference. The residents are very proud of it."

The city-owned Delta Memorial Hospital is another big improvement in Dumas. The hospital moved into its new building in 2006 after citizens passed a bond issue.

The Delta Technology Education Center is one of the city's newest amenities. The center just hosted its grand opening in November. It's a one-stop shop for the Department of Workforce Services and Southeast Arkansas Workforce Investment Board and helps give students a leg up as they train for their careers. It offers a public computer lab, classrooms for use by area schools,

see **Community**, page 8

and help for entrepreneurs and youth. Current educational partners are Phillips Community College of U.A., University of Arkansas at Monticello, UAM College of Technology-McGehee, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and Southeast Arkansas College.

The job market in Dumas has seen its ups and downs in recent years, Pickett says, with some manufacturers closing or moving shop elsewhere while others move in. Agriculture is still a big part of local business culture in the Delta community. A large cotton bale storage warehouse and a gin stand just blocks from downtown. Dumas has one of the most modern cotton gins in the country, Pickett says.

In addition to the school system and the hospital, some of Dumas' larger employers include Akin Industries, which makes furniture; SAF-Holland, which manufactures trucking products; ARKAT Nutrition, which produces pet food and catfish feed; and Smith Steel, steel building fabricators.

If you ask Pickett what he is most proud of as he approaches 40 years serving the public, he'll take you directly to the Jodie Partridge Center for handicapped adults and children.

"This place right here. I'm so proud of this place."

The Jodie Partridge Center is a day service for adults and children with disabilities. The Center serves about 40 people each day, providing activities and lunch. They used to serve more children than they do currently. The public school now serves many of the children the center used to.

The Center was established in 1972, the same year Pickett was first elected alderman, and he's been on the board since that time.

"We're most proud of him too," Center Director Betty Harris says of Pickett. "We go way back."

Pickett has always seen to it that the Center has what it needs to serve the people, Harris says. When he was with Dollar General, he would donate salvageable items from damaged cases to the Center if they had a need, she says.

"He's been dedicated to our cause and has helped lots and lots of people," Harris says.

The Center is very close to his heart, Pickett says.

"I came out of a poor family, and it just does me good to be able to give something back to the community, to serve on the board," he says. "It's very rewarding."

Pickett and Jodie Partridge Center Director Betty Harris, on his left, visit with the adults and children with special needs that use the Center each day. His involvement with the Center has been one of his most rewarding experiences, Pickett says.



League hosts drug testing workshop

New U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rules will have an impact on drug testing programs. The League on Nov. 10 hosted a Workplace Drug Testing Workshop to help prepare human resource professionals to make the necessary changes in their testing and reporting methods. The Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, the Human Resources Management Association of Arkansas and aTEST Consultants, Inc. presented the workshop.

Workshop topics included sessions giving an overview of the new DOT rules, drug testing cut-off levels,

additional drugs now tested, results reporting changes, file retention and more.

The workshop also covered the Workers' Compensation Commission's Rule 36 voluntary drug-free workplace program and how it will relate to new DOT rules. It's important for employers to participate in the Rule 36 program, the Commission's Patricia Hart said. Employers who participate see reduced accidents, reduced absenteeism, decreased turnover rates, increased employee morale, and a premium credit on workers' compensation insurance.



The Workers' Compensation Commission's Patricia Hart covers the benefits of the voluntary Rule 36 program.

Products seen here are commonly found under sinks or in custodial closets. North Little Rock Police Captain Mike Davis was on hand to warn employers that these products are often stolen from the workplace and used for the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine.



Mandatory sterilization a must for shelters

Legislation requiring mandatory pre-adoption sterilization could go a long way in reducing the booming unwanted pet population.

By Billy Grace

On July 7, 2010, a municipal animal shelter in central Arkansas advertised “free adoptions” in the statewide newspaper. One of our animal control officers, posing as someone who was interested in adopting a pet, called the telephone number provided. Our employee told the person who answered that she wished to adopt a puppy. She also told them that she did not wish to spay or neuter the puppy. The voice on the other end said, “That’s okay because we never follow up on them anyway.”

The above scenario illuminates a very pathetic situation within our state. Many animal shelters are not part of the solution to the unwanted pet population. They are a very large part of the problem.

Nobody knows exactly how many dogs and cats are adopted from animal shelters, humane societies and rescue groups in Arkansas each year. Everyone agrees, however, that the numbers are measured in the thousands. Everyone within the animal control profession also knows (or should know) that the very worst thing we can do is to release a dog or cat that has not been spayed or neutered, because they reproduce so quickly. We have all heard it before: One animal can turn into 10, and 10 can turn into 100 within just a couple of years. This being the case, what would possibly cause a municipal animal control agency to violate state law by not following up on their adoptions?

The answer is very simple. They are not capable of following up on the intact animals that are adopted from their agency. In fact, no animal control agency, including ours, is able to effectively do this. The person at the shelter mentioned above was probably just being a little more honest than the rest of us. Virtually every municipal animal shelter in the state is in the same boat. We are all short-handed. Our day is spent answering telephones, rushing from one call to another, cleaning kennels, and caring for animals. There is simply no time left to follow up on adoptions. An army of people would not be able to effectively do this, much less a shelter that is already short-handed.

There was a time when we released intact animals to the public, hoping that the new owners would have them spayed or neutered as promised. The result? We never heard from most of them again. We then tried collecting the spay/neuter money when the animal was adopted, thinking that would surely guarantee sterilization. Wrong again. We still never heard from most of them. In fact, it has been proven that over half of the people who adopt from shelters nationwide never have the animal sterilized as promised. In our case, it was probably closer to 70 percent. (I’ve personally had people that I had known for years lie to me and state “the dog ran away.”)

This being the case, why do we continue to think the answer to this problem is to hand out as many animals as possible to the public? Just so they can produce even more animals to add to the already spiraling unwanted pet population? Or maybe we are just being selfish. After all, a high adoption rate makes us look good. The fact is, this problem will only continue to worsen unless we all start thinking with our brains instead of our hearts, even if it means euthanizing the animal. I would much rather euthanize one than one hundred. I will attempt to explain.

In North Little Rock we have averaged adopting 1,128 dogs and cats each year for the past five years. We spay or neuter everything except very young puppies and kittens before they leave here. Our human population is approximately 61,000 people. Let’s say that a city of 6,000 people—about one-tenth our size—finds homes for 100 dogs and cats each year and they do not spay or neuter at adoption. Assuming that one-half of these animals are females, they will each have at least six offspring. So:

- Within one year— $50 \times 6 = 300$ offspring after one year.
- Begin year two, 300 animals, half female—150 females + original 50 females = $200 \times 6 = 1,200$ offspring after two years.
- Begin year three, 1,200 animals, half female—600 females + 200 producing females from years one and two = $800 \times 6 = 4,800$ offspring after three years.

ACCRTA holds silent auction at League Winter Conference

The Arkansas City Clerk Recorder Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) will hold its annual silent auction January 12 and 13 at the 2011 League Winter Conference. Proceeds from the auction are used to provide scholarships to clerks to attend various educational opportunities.

In 2010 the ACCRTA held two auctions, one at the 2010 Winter Conference and one at June's annual Convention. As a result of these two auctions we were able to award the following scholarships:

- Patti Scott Grey of Texarkana attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerk's Annual Conference.
- Shelia Ragsdeti of Paragould attended the Academy for Advanced Education at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in Fayetteville.
- Annette Faltin of Stamps, Misty Wright of Lewisville and Carol Crump Westergren of Beebe all attended the Municipal Clerks' Institute in Fayetteville.

We are once again asking individuals to donate items for our silent auction. Items can include food products, jewelry, clothing, pictures, fishing items, gift cards, Razorback items (always a good choice) and more. We ask that you bring your donated item(s) on Wednesday, Jan. 12 to the exhibit hall area. The silent auction will be held starting with the opening of the exhibit hall on Wednesday and will close around 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13. All items must be picked up by Friday morning. Cash or check payments only.

We encourage all attendees to stop by our booth to not only learn about the ACCRTA and how we can help your local clerk/treasurer, but to support this worthwhile event.

The ACCRTA Board of Directors has decided to only hold one silent auction in 2011 due to costs associated with the annual June Convention. We want to thank everyone for supporting our auctions last year and hope that you will again visit our booth in the exhibit hall, and remember to bid high and bid often.

It should be noted that these figures are based upon very conservative numbers. Many of the larger breed dogs, like the ones that we all see every day, will have 10 to 12 puppies twice a year. Cats will often have three litters per year. It should also be noted that these figures did not include male dogs and cats. As earlier stated, females will cycle but the males are ready to go 24 -7. Nobody knows how many offspring they will produce.

This means that in just three years, this town of 6,000 people has brought more animals into this world than our city of 61,000 has taken out of the reproductive cycle. Municipal shelters, rescue groups, and humane societies are handing out free animals all across the state of Arkansas. Until we see some drastic changes in the way adoption agencies do business, those of us who are heavily involved in the spay/neuter effort are just spinning our wheels.

New legislation could help

During the upcoming legislative session, a bill will be introduced that will require every shelter, humane society, rescue group, etc., in Arkansas to spay or neuter every pet over a certain age prior to adoption. Follow-up will be required on those animals adopted when they are too young to spay or neuter.

I strongly urge all of you in the animal profession, whether you are affiliated with a municipal shelter, a rescue group or a humane society, to support this crucial legislation. Nobody is naive enough to believe this will completely solve our pet overpopulation problem, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. It should set the course for reduced animal intake/euthanasia rates in the future. If any of you within this profession have any suggestions concerning this proposed legislation, please give me a call. Your input is welcome.



Billy Grace is the director of North Little Rock Animal Control. He can be reached at 501-791-8577 or e-mail bgrace@aristotle.net.

Excess weight can shorten life

By Susan Stuck, Cooper Aerobic Institute

An obese body is like a Volkswagen Beetle trying to tow a two-ton trailer. The struts sag, the motor strains—the car just wasn't engineered to pull the extra weight. Yet, in the 1990s, scientists began to realize that the problems go even further. Excess fat doesn't just weigh us down, it can actively harm the body's internal mechanisms.

Fat tissue is the body's largest endocrine organ, constantly manufacturing signals that are transported to other parts of the body. An obese person's fat cells can swell to three times the normal size. These oversized fat cells spew out an overload of signals. Just how do those signals wreak havoc in an obese body? Read on to find out.

Heart disease is by far the biggest threat posed by obesity. The National Institutes of Health estimates that an individual with a BMI (a standard weight-height index) in excess of 30 may triple his or her risk of heart disease. Here are some ways that excess fat can lead to heart problems:

- Fat tissue produces a vessel-constricting chemical called angiotensinogen that pushes up blood pressure.
- Fat cells churn out proteins that cause inflammation, which can cause arteries to burst and trigger heart attacks and strokes.
- Oversized fat cells leak fat into the bloodstream that can infiltrate heart muscle and cause congestive heart failure.

Diabetes has been referred to as America's preventable epidemic. Again, enlarged fat cells can be one of the main culprits. Fat leaking from cells disrupts the body's normal use of insulin, the hormone that tells muscles to burn energy and fat cells to store it, and can lead to a condition called insulin resistance, or Type 2 Diabetes. Here are some frightening statistics about its prevalence:

- According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), 80 percent of people with diabetes are overweight or obese.

- HHS estimates that a weight gain of 11 to 18 pounds doubles a person's risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts that one in three American children born in 2000 will develop diabetes unless people start eating less and exercising more.

Obesity is known to raise the risk for many types of cancer such as: breast, prostate, colon, esophagus, gallbladder, kidney, liver, uterus and the top of the stomach. Fat cells appear to play different roles that can spur different kinds of cancer growth. In post-menopausal breast cancer, for instance, fat tissue produces estrogen and estrogen has been shown in studies to fuel some breast tumors. Excess weight also makes it harder to spot tumors early, catch recurrences and determine the best chemotherapy dosage. Below are some other statistics on the cancer risks associated with obesity.

A 2003 study from the *New England Journal of Medicine* indicated that being overweight and obese may account for 20 percent of all cancer deaths in U.S. women and 14 percent in U.S. men.

The National Cancer Institute suggests being overweight could double a woman's risk of developing one type of cervical cancer.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that weight is a factor in one-third to two-thirds of breast cancer deaths.

Several studies have shown that obese men have a significantly higher risk of developing aggressive forms of prostate cancer. A 2006 study from the ACS and researchers at Duke University found that obese men who lost at least 11 pounds reduced their risk of developing aggressive prostate cancer by 42 percent.

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Municipal cooperation with Bridge Inspection Program urged



If your city/county has bridge length structures in your jurisdiction, you should already be aware that the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has been given the responsibility, in federal safety legislation passed in 1967, to administer the Bridge Inspection Program and ensure that these bridges are inspected for their condition and rated for their load capacity.

In Arkansas, AHTD does the inspections of your bridges, informs you of deficiencies that are found, makes load analyses of them, recommends any necessary weight limits to be posted or recommends closing due to unsafe conditions. Since AHTD has no jurisdiction on your highway system, it is your responsibility to make the needed bridge maintenance, weight limit postings, and closings.

In November 2008, the Arkansas Legislative Joint Auditing Committee conducted a performance audit of Arkansas' Bridge Inspection Program. An area of concern was the lack of response from local governments as to whether or not bridge deficiencies were addressed. AHTD met with officials of the Arkansas Municipal League and the Association of Arkansas Counties to discuss a possible plan to address these concerns as suggested by the Legislative Audit.

Your cooperation with AHTD is important as they administer the Program. Listed below are some ways that you can help:

- ◆ Bridge inspectors send an AHTD "Form V" to inform local governments of a weight limit posting deficiency or bridge related maintenance needs. Their importance is prioritized using a code described and listed at the bottom of the form as A, B, C, D, and G. "A" is a safety

deficiency requiring prompt action. "B" is a pressing deficiency requiring action taken within six months. "C" is an important deficiency requiring action taken within 12 months. "D" is a routine deficiency requiring action taken within 24 months. "G" is suggested general preventive maintenance.

- Local officials should: Address the listed needs, record the work in the "Action Taken" area on the Form V, and notify AHTD by sending the completed form to the AHTD district office. Or, you can use a "Form VIII", another AHTD form, to notify AHTD.
- ◆ AHTD sends your agency's annual "Bridge Inventory and Posting Certification" report from the AHTD listing with weight limit postings.
 - Local officials should: Review the field postings for any bridges that aren't properly posted and post bridges using materials from the AHTD district office or your supply. Sign and date the certification and return it to the district office by the December 31 deadline.
- ◆ A bridge is added or replaced on your agency's highway system.
 - Local officials should: Notify the district office using a "Form VIII" or a letter that a bridge has been replaced or added.

If your agency finds that these areas cannot be addressed for some reason, it would be helpful to respond, letting AHTD know that it will be addressed "as funds are available" or whatever the reason may be.

For additional information, please contact the AHTD district office in your area. The forms are available on the AHTD website, arkansashighways.com.

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Jonesboro, school create information systems internship

The City of Jonesboro and Arkansas State University Newport Technical Center-Marked Tree (ASUNTC-MT) are pleased to announce a new opportunity for a local ASUNTC-MT Computer and Networking Technology (CNT) student that began the fall of 2010. The city and the school are forging a new community partnership by creating a CNT internship program with the city. The internship will provide the intern a hands-on learning experience.

By creating this program, the city and ASUNTC-MT hope to produce a graduate who is a prospective employer's dream—well educated with previous experience and practical application in his or her field. The experience the intern will gather will be invaluable in his or her future quests for employment. Employers need a well-educated employee who is up-to-date on new technology and understands the nuts and bolts of computer systems and networking. An employee who has the educational background and practical experience will shine above the other candidates. This internship will provide the student with the practical application of his or her classroom experience.

The intern will be responsible for addressing issues regarding hardware, software and general trouble-shooting. He or she will not simply learn how to do

something, but be able to see its application in everyday situations.

The prospective intern will also be subject to all of the rules and regulations of a typical City Information System (IS) department employee. He or she will be subject to a background check and random drug screenings. This position is not for someone who merely wants to shadow a computer technician. The intern will be given tasks and expected to complete them in an efficient, timely manner. The student will be held to the high standards of any IS employee. Promptness in completion of assignments, courteousness to the public and fellow coworkers, and effectiveness in problem solving are all expected of the prospective intern.

At the end of the 120-hour, semester-long internship, the student will be better able to assess a situation and implement the proper solution. The city will have had the opportunity to view a situation from a new point of view. Finally, ASUNTC-MT will produce students who are career ready.

Jonesboro and ASUNTC-MT plan to extend the program to Black River Technical College-Pocahontas during the 2011 spring semester and other surrounding academic institutions.

Caraway teenager wins council seat

By Sherman Banks

In August of this year, a young man by the name of Austin Zamora from Caraway (population 1,350) decided that he was going to run for the city council. He was 18 years of age. He turned 19 on Oct. 9, one month before the mid-term elections.

In a close race, he won by 10 votes and will take his seat on the council Jan. 1.

The odds didn't favor Zamora. The obvious obstacles were his age and his inexperience, but Zamora was determined. He felt that the city council was too steeped in tradition and that new ideas were needed to bring the city into the 21st Century. He believed that the perspective of a youthful mind would at least bring about debate on the issues affecting society today.

Zamora's Hispanic background is a source of pride for him. His grandparents are from Mexico, and he feels that as a second-generation Hispanic in small-town Arkansas running for public office he can show the rest of world that Arkansas can not only produce a forward-thinking president, but small towns like Caraway can elect an ambitious 19-year-old Hispanic.

At the time he announced his candidacy, no one else was running for the position being vacated by a retiring council member. Just before the close of filing, another candidate entered the race. Although this new candidate, at age 46, was older, he had no prior experience in public



Zamora

office. In essence, they were both starting from zero.

Zamora campaigned the old fashioned way. He went door-to-door, visited supermarkets, and greeted everyone he saw and asked for their vote. Zamora, who is a full-time student at Arkansas State University and who works part-time at Sonic, didn't want to accept campaign contributions from anyone. He financed his own campaign with money he earned. How much did he spend?

"About \$150," he replied.

From his family he received nothing but support, Zamora said. He did experience some negativity on the campaign trail. Some asked him questions like, "What makes you think that you can make a difference being as young as you are?"

When seeking votes, the most disappointing responses, he said, sometimes came from people his age. They would reply "I am not registered to vote," or "I am not interested in politics."

Undeterred, Zamora pressed on. He is now the first Hispanic to be elected to public office in Caraway.



Contact Sherman Banks at 501-376-8193, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920 Little Rock, AR 72216.



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2011 Winter Conference

Peabody Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center
January 12-14, 2011

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 10, 2010, to qualify for advance registration.

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after December 10, 2010 , and on-site registration for municipal officials.	\$175
Spouse/guest registration	\$75
Child registration	\$75
Other registrants.	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2009-2010 edition**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 10, 2010.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 10, 2010.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Peabody Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double	\$124	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	\$155	Check-in 3 p.m.
Douglas Hotel		
Single/Double	\$129	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$94	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 10, 2010.**
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to an 11.5 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
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Step 1: Delegate Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name:

Title: City of:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

Spouse/Guest will attend: Yes No Name:

Children will attend: Yes No Name(s):

Step 2: Payment Information

• WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL? (see opposite page for fees)

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants	Total
\$150	\$175	\$75	\$75	\$200	\$

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Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

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

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City: State: Zip:

E-mail address (**required for credit card payment**):

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

SOLD OUT
Peabody Hotel

Reservations _____ 501-906-4000 (Monica Gowie, lead reservationist)

Capital Hotel

Reservations _____ 877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474

SOLD OUT
Doubletree Hotel

Reservations _____ 800-937-2789 or 501-372-4371

Wyndham Hotel

Reservations _____ 800-996-3426 or 501-371-9000

Step 4: Hotel Payment

Payment Options: Credit Card or Direct Bill Note: only two payment options.

To obtain direct billing as a payment option, registered delegates must directly contact hotel accounting offices listed below:

Capital Hotel Accounting _____ 501-370-7062

Doubletree Hotel Accounting _____ 501-372-4371

Wyndham Hotel Accounting _____ 501-371-9000

Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Dustin McDaniel

Salary split allowed for newly split clerk, treasurer positions

Opinion: 2010-107

Requestor: Madison, Sue—State Senator

The City of West Fork, a first class city, enacted a resolution to separate the position of Clerk/Treasurer into two positions, equally dividing the salary between the positions after the incumbent official retired. The city council appointed an individual to fill both roles until the new city clerk was elected and took office in January 2009. (Q1) Does ACA 14-42-113(a) and (b) apply, therefore making it illegal to decrease the salary of the newly elected city clerk? (Q2) Even though the previous position of city clerk/treasurer was divided into two separate positions, the current city clerk won an election and is completing the remainder of the previously vacated term. Does this make the current city clerk a “successor” as defined in ACA 14-42-113(b)? If the answer is “yes,” does this in any way change the answer to question one? (Q3) The city council voted to change the salary of the city clerk in August 2008. Since the newly elected city clerk was completing the vacated term of the previous city clerk/treasurer, when does the new salary of \$24,000 take effect? (Q4) The salary change for the city clerk position was done after the filing period for the November 2008 election. Does this fact affect any of the aforementioned answers? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the answer to your first two questions is “no.” As explained more fully below, section 14-42-113 implicitly provides that if a city office becomes vacant, the salary for that office cannot be reduced between the time the original officeholder vacates and the successor assumes the office. In my opinion, however, this reading of 14-42-113 presupposes that the person elected to complete the remainder of the vacated term succeeds to the office as it previously existed. As your background facts indicate, the current clerk was elected to the office of “city clerk,” not the office of “clerk-treasurer,” which was the prior office. Therefore, it appears that section 14-42-113 does not indicate what the salary should be for the current clerk (about which your first two questions inquire). In response to your third question, taking into account the specific scenario you describe, section 14-42-113 does not govern when the \$2,400 salary takes effect because that statute presupposes the successor succeeds to the full, original office. Thus, section 14-42-113 simply

does not apply in the scenario you describe. As for your fourth question, the timing of the salary change does not affect the statutory analysis reflected in the answers to your other questions.

Chamber not entitled to city funds

Opinion: 2010-114

Requestor: Perry, Mark—State Representative

Since Chambers of Commerce typically supply newcomers and visitors to the city with maps, visitor guides, information regarding area attractions and local businesses, as well as acting as primary contact for industrial prospects and available properties, is the Chamber entitled to allocation of city funds? Q2) If the answer to question 1 is “yes,” under what guidelines are Chambers of Commerce allowed to receive sales tax monies from a city? **RESPONSE:** Q1) If by “allocation” you mean donation of city funds, then “no” See Ark. Const. article 12, section 5; Op. Att’y Gen.Nos. 2008-048 and 1999-408. But a city may contract with private entities to provide services. To be valid, the agreement must be supported by adequate consideration and serve a legitimate public purpose. If advertising and promotion funds are at issue (A&P funds, also known as “hamburger tax funds”), I believe the use of such funds as consideration for a chamber of commerce providing the services mentioned would generally be permissible. See. ACA 26-75-606. Q2) See discussion above. Questions of adequate consideration and contractual purpose are questions of fact.

Law lists expenditures deemed legit for stimulating economic growth

Opinion: 2010-120

Requestor: Brown, Jerry R.—State Representative

(Q1) Did the legislature intend for cities and counties, or their agents as defined in ACA 14-174-107, to use revenue generated from this authority to fund only those programs and projects mentioned in ACA 14-174-105 and -106, that have a direct impact on attracting, retaining, and expanding new jobs and economic activity? (Q2) Did the legislature intend cities and counties, or their agents as defined in ACA 14-174-107, to use revenue generated from this authority to fund programs and projects mentioned in ACA 14-174-105

and -106 that have only an indirect impact on creating an expanding new jobs and economic activity? (Q3) At what point can a city or county be classified as using the funds for general operating revenue? (Q4) Do all expenses have to meet the purposes in ACA 14-174-101? (Q5) Considering the wording of the Emergency Clause, can revenue generated from the sales tax be used for performance-based incentives for private-sector job creation? **RESPONSE:** I cannot answer your first two questions because they introduce a distinction into the statute that is not found there. The statute does not explicitly address the question of how close the nexus must be between an actual expenditure, on the one hand, and accomplishing the purposes of economic development, on the other. Instead, the statute identifies certain expenditures that the legislature has determined will stimulate the local economy, in principle. So the legal question under the statute is whether any particular expenditure meets at least one item on the list of the pre-approved expenditures. Your third question is a question of fact that cannot be answered in the abstract. Your fourth question mistakenly presupposes that subsection 14-174-101 establishes a “two-pronged” test that all expenditures must meet. As explained in the opinion, the legislature has already listed those items that are approved as legitimate expenses that, in principle, stimulate economic growth. The answer to your fourth question is “no,” for the reasons in the opinion.

Term-limited board members may be replaced

Opinion: 2010-122

Requestor: Broadway, Shane—State Senator

Is a member of a Regional Solid Waste Management Board (“RSWMB”) who is appointed by a county judge or mayor under subsection (b) of ACA 8-6-703, ineligible to serve longer than a maximum of two terms or four years total? Q2) If the answer to question 1 is “yes,” may the county judge or mayor immediately undertake personal participation on the District Board in place of the member whom he had appointed, despite that official having served in his respective elective office more than four years? Q3) When a member of a RSWMB, who is appointed by a county judge or mayor under subsection (b) of ACA 8-6-703, has served longer than two terms or four years total but is still

within the term for which the county judge or mayor was elected, must/should the appointing body take any affirmative steps to express its “pleasure” that the appointed member continue to serve? **RESPONSE:** Q1) In my opinion, ACA § 8-6-703 is unequivocal in limiting the terms of appointed board members to four years. Hence, I believe the answer to this question is “yes.” However, in my opinion, the actions of holdover board members, so long as they were properly appointed at the commencement of their terms, will be deemed effective under what is known as the “de facto doctrine.” Q2) In my opinion, “yes.” The statute authorizes a qualified public official to remove an appointee at any time and to step into the appointee’s place and serve as long as he or she remains in office. Q3) I believe an appointing body may at its “pleasure” -- the term used in the statute -- remove an appointee at any time. However, I do not believe this provision empowers an appointing body to extend an appointee’s term beyond the four years specified in the statute. Consequently, I believe the answer to this question is “no.”

In-kind allowed as payment for use of city facility

Opinion: 2010-129

Requestor: Patterson, Steve—State Representative

Can a city accept in-kind services (such as CPR training for city employees) as “payment” for use of a city-owned facility? Q2) If so, is the entity that is “renting” the facility, free to charge the public for classes as well? **RESPONSE:** Q1) This involves a factual question that I cannot answer, but I will note that nonmonetary consideration, sometimes in the form of public advantage, can be sufficient to support a real property transaction. See Op. Att’y Gen. 2001-102 and Nos. 2009-193 and 2008-179 (regarding ACA 14-54-302). Q2) Probably yes, assuming that the transaction between the entity and the city is otherwise valid, i.e., it serves a public purpose and is supported by adequate consideration. The entity presumably would be charging the public for its services in any event, and I see no reason why that practice should necessarily discontinue when the city facility is utilized.

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

Plan to cure the municipal budget blues

Make planning an integral part of the budgeting process to avoid “patch and pray” fixes and to ensure that development is sustainable.

By Jim von Tungeln

Municipal officials must be scratching their collective heads as they begin working on budgets for next year. After all, they are near the bottom of the pecking order in a public administration hierarchy that faces one of the most perplexing political environments in history. Things are about to get interesting.

All forms of government now find themselves squeezed by the pressure of increasing public demand for services on one side and the demonizing of taxes and user-rates on the other. The trouble is, the feds and the states have the power to pass on the needs but deny the resources. City and county governments can only face incoming burdens and hope.

For a ray of hope, let’s see how urban planning might help. First though, remember that the following will require a special skill: the ability to think several years into the future. This is not always easy when the fiscal hounds are yapping at one’s feet, and the hounds of municipal governance are particularly vicious. The following are simply some ideas for starters. Each city should be able to add to and enhance them.

Municipalities can benefit by encouraging infill development and making so-called “greenfield development” pay more of its long-term share. Infill development makes productive use of existing vacant land within the city. In most cases, all urban services are being provided to the parcels, including streets, utilities, emergency services and drainage structures. Conversely, each greenfield lot added to the city’s planning area adds a new maintenance burden to future taxpayers. Take, for example, streets. If there is no street, there is no problem. This is not to say that no new streets should be added to the fabric of a city, but that we must bear in mind that they create a liability that should be taken into consideration. The width, initial construction, and connectivity should be of financial concern. Also worth considering is a complex phenomenon called “induced traffic demand” that is a fit subject for another day.



This developer did his own engineering and bypassed the planning process completely.

Speaking of streets, some cities are increasingly making the beneficiaries of improved streets pay for those improvements. After enacting a “boundary-street improvements” provision to its subdivision regulations, the City of Searcy now enjoys an entire block of a commercial street improved by adjacent development at no cost to the taxpayers. And the developers enjoy a nice new street to serve their customers.

Another controllable segment of the infrastructure grid involves sewer. For years, municipalities have competed for population growth, a practice that might be described as a sword that swings both ways. In many cases, developers have accessed municipal wastewater by means of convoluted force-mains, which are simply small lines that transmit not by gravity but by pressure created by a pump station, sometimes multiple pump stations. For each station added, the city accepts a long-term maintenance and replacement obligation that can exceed \$20,000 per year in today’s dollars.

A planning concept known as “concurrence,” and largely unknown in our state, discourages development until supporting utilities are in place, avoiding both leapfrogging of development, the proliferation of pump stations, and reliance upon rural water systems that cannot provide fire protection. This concept requires a strong commitment to both planning and control of development. Needless to say, these measures were not as popular in the prosperous 1990s as they may be in the years ahead. Hard times may actually work to the advantage of cities in this case.

The physical form that cities take also controls future costs. As quoted in a recent article by the Brookings Institute, research by the Real Estate Research Corp. and Robert Burchell and others documents that compact growth can be as much as 70 percent cheaper for governments than equivalent volumes of scattered growth. The authors conclude that “it simply costs less to provide infrastructure and services to denser, more contiguous households than to far-flung, low-density communities.” (Authors: Bruce Katz and Mark Muro)

Notice that we haven’t even touched upon the vast fortunes that could be saved by effective floodplain management. Or, on a broader scale, this may simply mean that we plan in such a way that development doesn’t exceed the capacity of an area to support it.



Planning and regulating can prevent costly retrofits such as this.

Finally, good planning requires listening to the voices of the residents. Sometimes these are contradictory. At other times they are quite clear. At any rate, the planning process offers one of the best opportunities to acquire and analyze public opinion. Then city government must respond to it, in the least costly method possible. We recall an instance in which voters were asked to approve a sales tax for five major projects. The voters resoundingly defeated each proposal. The mayor and council later depleted the city’s healthy reserve fund to disastrous levels by undertaking all of the projects. Go figure.

We live in an era in which an accepted engineering standard of infrastructure maintenance is labeled “patch and pray.” Seriously. One major urban bridge has already collapsed and we could not even start to document the cities across the country in which standing sewage is a constant problem. The “bathtub ring” at Lake Mead in Nevada is now something like 125 feet high as this gargantuan lake is being depleted to support urban development in one of the least sustainable areas of the country.

Maybe it is time to give planning a chance.



Jim vonTungeln is staff planning consultant and is 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) 372-3232. His website is www.planyourcity.com. His associate James Walden contributed ideas to this offering.

Greener cities mean healthier lifestyles

“Inactive lifestyles and resulting obesity is causing an epidemic of poor health in adults and children. Outdoor environments affect behaviors. Trees and other greening elements are one way to encourage physical activities.”

—Kathleen L. Wolf, Ph.D.

By John Slater

Like many people in this country, I am overweight and struggle with it daily. I have always enjoyed walking and running, yet in the last few years my physical activity has been off and on with too many days spent sitting behind a computer or behind the wheel of a car. Finding a place to work out is not easy to do in the average community. I recently had a scare, which resulted in my being under a cardiologist’s care. This was a wakeup call for me to increase my activity and reduce my weight by finding a place close to home that will inspire me to work out.

My favorite place to work out now is on the Hot Springs National Park trails in downtown Hot Springs, and I finished a three-mile walk/run this morning on one of those trails. I enjoy the quietness, the solitude of the trail and the glory of the sunrise that I am often privy to. With just enough light to run by, I’m usually the first to arrive. No matter how many times I run the trails, I always experience something new. I like the way it makes me feel when I work out and how it affects the rest of the day, and I wonder why it’s not easier for me to do it daily.

Before I started using the trail, I ran in my neighborhood in the early morning by the glow of the streetlights, but it was not a scenic run. There were no sidewalks, so I had to run in the street and avoid traffic and the glare of headlights. The presence of trash trucks on Thursday mornings was like a waking nightmare, brakes squealing, motor revving up between homes, clanging and banging, truck compactor metal against metal, crushing and grinding. It ruined the calm and peacefulness of an early morning workout.

Our communities need to be built with nature in mind instead of pushing nature farther out of our cities and neighborhoods. Nature needs to be convenient to everyone. Though the trail I use is only a 10-minute drive from my home, our goal should be to have trails you could walk, run or ride a bike to from home. We as a

society need to take an active part in how our communities grow to make our cities more livable, which is good for everyone’s health.

The communities in Northwest Arkansas have realized the importance of green space and trails and are now working with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission to build a 36-mile trail that will connect Lake Bella Vista to Fayetteville. A \$15 million TIGER II program grant has been awarded to the Razorback Regional Greenway project through the NWAPRC. Jeff Hawkins, executive director of NWARPC, stated: “We are very pleased that we had the opportunity to participate and share in the benefits of the TIGER II program. This project will have a significant and positive impact on thousands of people in Northwest Arkansas. It will provide mobility alternatives, while improving livability and creating opportunities for a healthier lifestyle.”

Highlights of Dr. Wolf’s findings

According to research conducted by Kathleen L. Wolf, Ph.D., research director at the University of Washington, 65 percent of U.S. adults are overweight, and one in three is obese, putting them at risk of chronic diseases such as a heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, Type II diabetes, arthritis, cancer, and resulting in billions of dollars in annual medical costs.

People who use parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers. People prefer nearby, attractive, and larger parks and open spaces for their activity.

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. Active living is one solution to turn back this trend.

In one study, elderly people who had nearby parks, tree-lined streets and space for taking walks showed higher longevity over a five-year time period.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SLATER

Exercising in urban green spaces —like the trails, seen here, of Hot Springs Natural Park—beats dodging garbage trucks on city streets any day, and the views, especially as dawn breaks, are spectacular.

Researchers completed a study in the Netherlands that found residents of neighborhoods with abundant green space generally enjoy better health than urban dwellers without access to natural areas. This positive link was found to be most apparent among the elderly, housewives and people from lower socioeconomic groups.

For a wealth of further information on the subject, check out the following websites: Human

Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening (www.naturewithin.info) and Green Cities: Good Health (depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_ActiveLiving.html).

Make a Memory...Plant a Tree



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



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Who knows you?

With a new legislative season upon us, make sure you know your elected leaders on the state and national levels, and, more importantly, make sure they know you.

By Chad Gallagher

Now that election season is over, there are some new faces preparing to enter office in January. Arkansas's congressional delegation and the state House and Senate all will have new faces. The old saying declares, "It isn't what you know, but who you know." I fully agree with the statement. Professional knowledge itself is important in governing, building a strong community and pursuing grants. However, who you know can come in handy if you know the right folks. The question for you as a municipal leader is this: How well do they know you?

Members of Congress and members of the Arkansas Legislature are the lawmakers and appropriators for their respective levels of government. In doing so they and their staffs are knowledgeable of state and federal programs and opportunities. Their interaction with the agencies means they can wield true influence. Regardless of how much a legislator thinks the government at each level should or shouldn't do, it is almost universal that they do want what they approve of to be done in their state or district. Whether making policy or appropriations, the actions taken in Little Rock and Washington significantly impact municipalities and the communities you are building.

Arkansas Municipal League members are fortunate to have the League fighting on their behalf during legislative sessions. Having worked in the Governor's office and led the "war room" for a legislative package, I can assure you that there is not a more powerful, well-organized and effective lobbying team than the League's. League staff members are diligent during the session and can be seen in the hallways, the committee rooms and around each chamber. The League understands that at any moment a bill could significantly help or tremendously harm municipalities' finances, home rule or its ability to function properly. I encourage you to reach out to the League and find out how you can help their efforts during the legislative session that begins in January.

Don't let your interaction with state and federally elected officials stop there. I think one of the most important things a local official can do is build strong relationships with state and federal lawmakers and their staff members. As a mayor I found every member of our congressional delegation and my own state representatives and senators always ready to help with community projects. It is important to make these officials aware of your needs, your efforts and what is going on in your city. Their staff members can help you make good connections with helpful agency employees and discover agency programs that could benefit your community and help you achieve success.

In grant writing, broad support is a significant aspect for a winning application. Having your elected officials on board with your efforts and supportive of your proposal can only help you in these efforts. As you make your plans for a new year, reach out to your elected officials. Be certain they are aware of your community's needs, keep them abreast of developments and firmly plant yourself on their radar so in their efforts you quickly come to mind when a new grant, program or economic development opportunity presents itself.

Lastly, when you secure a community success, be sure to share the credit. Heap praise upon those who helped you, whether it was just a little or a lot. Every legislator and member of Congress has to get re-elected. Like you they appreciate an opportunity for voters to see their hard work and efforts on behalf of your community.

So to put a spin on the old saying, "It isn't who you know, it's how well they know you."



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of DeQueen. Contact him at 501-580-6358 or by e-mail at chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com.

Visit Us.

www.arml.org

Continuing Legal Education Offered at League Winter Conference

Six (6) hours of continuing legal education (CLE) will be available for city attorneys who attend the Arkansas Municipal League's 2011 Winter Conference, Jan. 12-14, 2011, at the Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. The Arkansas City Attorneys Association (ACAA) sponsors the CLE. All CLE will occur on Friday, Jan. 14 in the Arkansas Room of the Peabody Hotel.

A.J. Kelley, city attorney for Fairfield Bay and ACAA president, urges members and non-members to register for the Conference as soon as possible. A registration form is in this issue of *City & Town*. Copies also are being mailed to city attorneys.

CLE topics are selected based on the requests from our city attorney members and will include expungement, law enforcement officer reporting, administrative searches, BAT machines update and one (1) hour of ethics.

To attend the CLE program, registration is required at the League Winter Conference. For Conference registration information, call Whitnee Bullerwell at the League, 501-978-6105. For CLE information, call Mark Hayes, ACAA secretary/treasurer and League general counsel, at 501-978-6102, or his assistant, Jamie Adams, at 501-978-6124.



Municipal Notes

Fire Departments awarded funds

The Manila, Dell and Etowah fire departments have each been awarded grants from both the Arkansas Forestry Commission and from state General Improvement Funds (GIF), *The Town Crier* reported on Nov. 9.

The Forestry Commission presented each town with a check for \$1,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance grants. The funds will be used to purchase firefighting equipment. The purpose of the assistance program is to train and equip local forces to prevent, control and suppress fires in rural areas.

The GIF funding included \$500 for Manilla and \$375 each for Etowah and Dell. Other municipal recipients of GIF funding included the Gosnell Police Department, the city of Dyess, the city of Keiser, and the Blytheville Police Department.

Montrose awarded grant for seniors

Montrose has received a grant of \$140,000 for its senior citizens project from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. The city will use the funds to repurpose a building for the senior citizens center. The new center will have a kitchen, large hall and offices to hold functions for the senior citizens of Montrose and surrounding area. The center staff currently delivers 25-35 hot meals Monday-Friday and has Bingo on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "We will offer many more services after the first of the year, such as health checks, nutrition advice, etc., for our senior citizens," Mayor Larry Coulter said.

Fayetteville lands \$500K Home Depot green grant

Fayetteville in November joined Charleston, S.C., as one of just two cities in the country to receive a \$500,000 sustainability grant aimed at developing long-term solutions for green planning and development, *The Northwest Arkansas Times* reported Nov. 11.

The grant will serve several purposes, Fayetteville Sustainability Coordinator John Coleman said, but primarily it will go toward designing about 40 Energy Star-certified homes for low- and moderate-income families in the Walker Park neighborhood in south Fayetteville.



Support a family on \$20 a week?

Volunteer firefighters who are injured in their firefighter duties receive only \$20 a week for a compensable injury.

Solution: The Arkansas Municipal League's Volunteer Firefighters Supplemental Income Program protects the earnings of volunteer firefighters who are injured in their duties.

What they get: Weekly temporary total disability benefits payable up to a MAXIMUM of \$550 allowed under Arkansas Workers' Compensation Law; weekly benefits go for 52 weeks; \$10,000 death benefit.

How? Cost is only \$20 a firefighter a year. All volunteer and part-paid firefighters in the department must be covered. The minimum premium for each city or town is \$240.

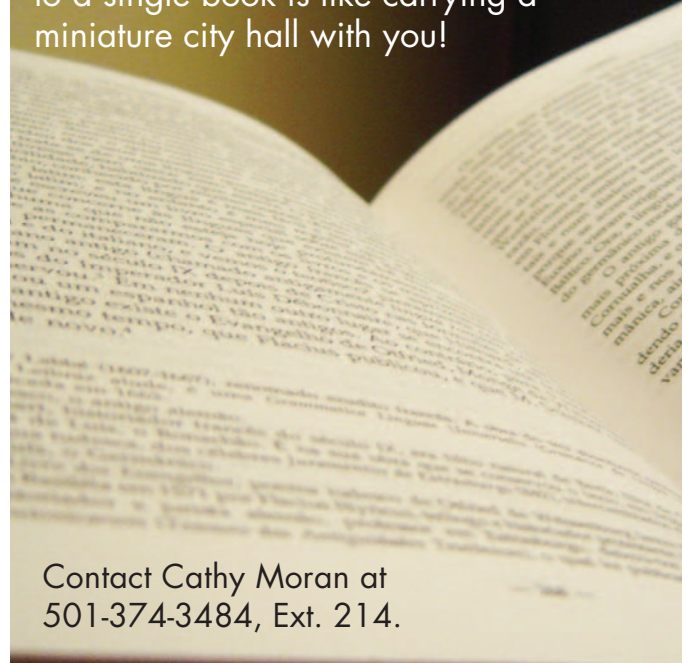
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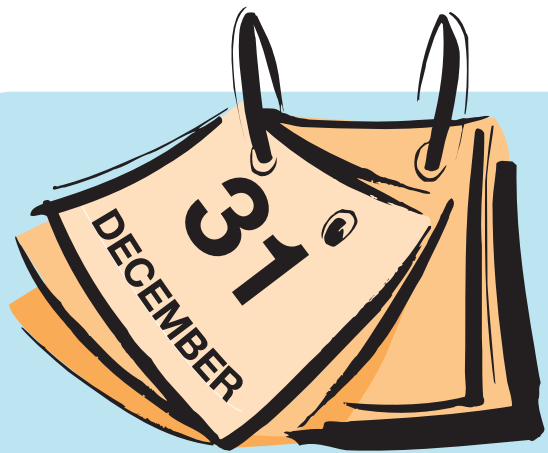
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The deadline for enrollment in the Arkansas Municipal League 2010 Municipal Officials and Department Heads Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan is Dec. 31, 2010.

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

The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

The new 2009-2010 edition of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* has arrived. The *Handbook* compiles state laws affecting Arkansas municipalities, including the newest laws from the 2009 legislative session.

This is the most complete publication on municipal law and city government in Arkansas. You may order and pay for your copy online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org, or use the order form below.



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The Municipal Health Benefit Fund provides quality health protection for your officials and employees at a reasonable rate. For further information, please call 501-374-3484, ext. 111.

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 Municipal Health Benefit Fund Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
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Subscribe to the list servs by using one of the following options:

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

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

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ARKANSAS MUN

2011 Winter Conferen

Little Rock

January 12

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 12TH

1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION Osage Room

1:00 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.
VISIT WITH STATE AGENCIES Governor's Hall I & II
Different state agencies have been invited to set up in this area. Take time to visit with them about how their agencies might best assist your city.

2:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.
MANAGING YOUR MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION
UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS Peabody Ballrooms A & B
This two hour workshop is part of the continuing education certification program for mayors and aldermen. The information covered will include brief explanations of the functions of the major municipal departments and your role in interacting with them.

2:30 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.
MLWCT Board of Trustees Manning Room, Peabody Hotel

3:15 P.M.
BREAK Governor's Hall I & II

3:15 P.M. – 4:15 P.M.
MANAGING YOUR MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION CONT'D

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
GENERAL SESSION Peabody Ballrooms A & B
Governmental Agencies: How They Can Help
A panel of governmental agencies explain funding sources and assistance programs available to municipalities.

5:30 P.M. – 5:45 P.M.
BREAK Governor's Hall I & II

5:45 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.
GENERAL SESSION II Peabody Ballrooms A & B
Governmental Agencies: How They Can Help, Continued

7:00 P.M.
OPENING NIGHT BANQUET Wally Allen, Ballroom, SCC
We are honored to have Constitutional officers and legislators in attendance at the conclusion of our meal. President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, Honorable Paul Bookout and Speaker of the House, Honorable Robert Moore have been invited to make remarks.

8:30 P.M.
POST BANQUET RECEPTION Governor's Hall I & II, SCC
After the Opening Night Banquet, stroll down to the Governor's Hall and enjoy delicious desserts while visiting with fellow municipal officials and listening to easy listening music.
Sponsored by The Friday Law Firm

THURSDAY AM - JANUARY 13TH

7:15 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPENS Osage Room

7:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.
HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFET Governor's Hall I & II
Enjoy a traditional Arkansas breakfast before the Opening Session Courtesy of our host city, Little Rock.

7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES Governor's Hall I & II

9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.
OPENING GENERAL SESSION Peabody Ballrooms A, B, & C
The Winter Conference officially begins with the singing of our National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Welcome Remarks from Mayor Mark Stodola.

10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
BREAK

10:30 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.
GENERAL SESSION II Peabody Ballrooms A, B, & C
PREPARING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
The 88th General Assembly convened this week facing multiple challenges. How will these challenges impact Arkansas municipalities? AML Executive Director Don Zimmerman will explain the AML Legislative package and your role in assuring that we have a successful session.

11:15 A.M. – NOON
GENERAL SESSION III Peabody Ballrooms A, B, & C
Leaders in the Legislature share with us their perspective of what some of the key issues that may come before their respective committees might be.

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Meeting Tentative Agenda

January 13-14, 2011



THURSDAY PM - JANUARY 13TH

12:15 P.M.
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON.....Governor's Hall, I & II
 Governor Beebe has been invited to address our Luncheon attendees. At the conclusion of his remarks, the 2010 Volunteer Community Of the Year Awards will be announced and the winners recognized.

2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
NOW THAT YOU ARE ELECTED Peabody Ballrooms, A, B, & C
 Now that you are elected, what are some of the survival skills that you will need?
 Topics:
 The Importance of Procedural Rules
 The Role of the Mayor
 The Role of the Council
 The Role of the Clerk
 Public Official Liability
 Federal Laws That Impact Your City

3:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.
 BREAK

3:45 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
MOCK CITY COUNCIL MEETING... Peabody Ballrooms A, B, & C
 City Council meetings are conducted in a variety of styles. However, there are a few basics that you should know. Plan to attend and see how the mock city council of Midtown conducts its meeting.
 DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
INVESTMENT MANAGERS DESSERT RECEPTION..... Governor's Hall I & II
 After a break for dinner on your own, save room for dessert and attend this reception.
 Sponsored by Stephens, Inc.

FRIDAY - JANUARY 14th

7:15 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION OPENS.....Osage Room

7:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.
BREAKFAST BUFFET..... Governor's Hall I & II

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
CITY ATTORNEYS..... Arkansas Room, Peabody Hotel
 City Attorneys will meet for six hours of CLE.

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
WELLNESS DOES MATTER AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE Peabody Ballroom A
 Arkansas ranks near the top of states with obese population. This contributes to 70% of chronic diseases that are preventable or reversible. What can we do to promote a climate of wellness in our municipalities?

10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.
 BREAK

10:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.
THE ROLE OF LOCAL LEADERS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT..... Peabody Ballroom A
 Economic Development is a goal of every municipality. The speakers suggest some things that you can do to enhance economic development in your municipality.

11:45 A.M. – NOON
 CONCLUDING REMARKS

NOON
LUNCH BUFFETPeabody Ballrooms B & C
 Before you depart, join us for a buffet of Southwest cuisine.

Other Friday Meetings:

1:00 P.M.
 MHBFB Board Meeting Manning Room, Peabody Hotel

New warning system keeps Springdale ahead of storm

By Jennifer Chacón, City of Springdale

Weather in Northwest Arkansas is unpredictable: If you don't like it wait 10 minutes. Springdale has struggled to find how best to inform its citizens of approaching weather dangers. Unfortunately, it can be a challenge to predict how bad approaching storms will get, and it's even harder to find a way to inform an entire city.

What if you could be alerted immediately when a storm is expected to take a turn for the worse? What if the system was capable of breaking down language barriers and send alerts to all citizens? Springdale's new Alert Notification System, designed by Cooper Notification, solves many of the emergency communication problems cities face.

The system not only handles pending weather in various languages, it also has the capability of sending out emergency alerts throughout the city, or in designated areas within Springdale. One example would be to help locate a senior citizen who is lost or missing.

The emergency alert system allows users to access weather alerts/warnings via e-mail, cell phone, or land line telephone. Springdale residents can access this system now through the city's website, www.springdalear.gov. Signing up for the program is as easy as one, two, three:

1. Go to the Springdale website and click on the "Alert" link.
2. Click on the new user button.
3. Fill out your Springdale Alert Registration profile information and click "continue." You are then in the system, where you can select the weather alerts you would like to receive and, Shazam, you're done!

Once signed up for this program, users can access their profiles from the same link on the city website. By doing so, they can change their profile settings anytime, add or delete devices, and make changes to their weather notifications.

Notifications will be issued to all users immediately once the alert is sent out from Tulsa, Okla. Depending on what form of communication selected, the user will receive an instant notification with specific information about the pending weather. Whether it is a tornado warning or an ice storm advisory, users will be given the information required to take necessary precautions.

Key requirements for eligibility are as follows: The user needs to have a Springdale address and provide an appropriate method of communication (e-mail address, cell phone number or a land line telephone number). At this time our alert system is only available to Springdale residents.

With the implementation of the Alert Notification System, we are able to keep more residents informed than ever before, and users are already giving positive reviews. One resident called in with this comment: "I feel much safer living in Springdale knowing I will immediately be alerted of a tornado." Another resident said, "I like the flexibility of the alert system, allowing me to pick and choose my weather alert options."

No matter what the varying weather patterns may be, rest assured that Springdale has taken its citizens' welfare to heart, and, with the help of the new alert system, they will be notified without delay of all weather hazards.



Springdale's new Alert Notification System will help give residents warnings about pending weather dangers, such as the devastating ice storm that struck the city and much of northern Arkansas in 2009.

The Arkansas Municipal League hosts January sustainability seminar

The City of North Little Rock, North Little Rock Green Agenda Committee (NLR Green) and the Arkansas Municipal League are sponsoring a seminar, "Putting Sustainability to Work for You," from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, at the League's headquarters, 301 West Second St. in North Little Rock.

Eric A. Woodroof, Ph.D, will present the seminar and is the 2011 president of the Association of Energy Engineers, which has a presence in 81 countries. For more than 15 years, Dr. Woodroof has helped more than 400 organizations and governments improve profits with energy-environmental solutions. He is the chairman of the board for the Certified Carbon Reduction Manager (CRM) program and has been a board member of the Certified Energy Manager (CEM) program since 1999, both programs sanctioned by the Association of Energy Engineers. Dr. Woodroof has advised clients such as the U.S. Government, the U.S. Public Health Service, airports, utilities, cities, universities and foreign governments.

"There are many ways to improve the profitability of organizations, and these ideas generate rates of return that are higher than an organization's normal profit margin so you really can improve the bottom line and become more sustainable," Dr. Woodroof said.

During the seminar he will discuss:

- The U.S. and global perspectives on how governments and businesses are dealing with greenhouse gas emissions from policy and implementation perspectives;

- How cities have turned becoming more environmentally aware into a competitive advantage for economic development;
- How businesses and cities have utilized greenhouse gas management, established corporate policy and corporate culture to brand themselves in the marketplace;
- The Climate Registry and how it is being utilized by cities and business throughout the U.S.;
- Focus on people (good for citizens), planet (good for the environment), and profitability (makes fiscal sense); and
- How businesses can work with cities (and vice versa) to improve the environment.

"A plan cannot be put into place overnight," says Murry Witcher, president of the Arkansas Municipal League and a North Little Rock alderman. "This seminar will show corporate and government leaders how to distinguish themselves in the sustainability movement."

Companies, organizations or cities registering prior to Dec. 31 will receive four tickets to the seminar at no cost. After Dec. 31, the cost is \$99 per attendee.

Coffee and welcome session is from 8-9 a.m. on Jan. 26, 2011, and lunch is provided. Registration is online at www.NLRGreen.org.

For more information about the seminar, contact Terry Kessinger, manager, North Little Rock Office of Sustainability, at 501-372-0100.



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Initiative shows children a better path

The Arkansas Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative is working to paint a brighter future for children born into poverty.

By Tracy R. Spencer

What happens when your life starts out in bleak circumstances, where the quality of life seems to be of no value to anyone or even yourself because you are born into a poverty stricken environment, where you have no concept of self, and where you lack a healthy start for a potentially successful life journey? What happens? You will potentially have a long road of barriers that will steer you away from a road of success.

I'm often reminded of this quote by Ed Gray: "According to your mindset, you'll find what you're looking for." This is often true, especially for children who do not have the resources, support, love and care to help stimulate a sense of direction and motivation to challenge themselves, to believe in themselves, to learn about themselves, and to take in knowledge that will lay a good foundation for a productive future. Your mindset, when not nourished with the qualities that promote healthiness, in most cases, will absorb things that will be counterproductive to life, such as being socially inept, unemployed, emotionally and mentally unstable and, most of all, uneducated.

It's a bleak picture, but there is hope in our community for those whose lives have started out under these difficult circumstances.

A voice for children

In 2008, a former school administrator returned to Arkansas from a conference with a vision and a plan to begin addressing the poverty issues that lead young boys and girls down a path of destruction for their lives. Under the leadership of Dr. Beverly Divers-White, along with other educators and community leaders in the private and public sectors, a coalition called Arkansas Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative was formed to address the bleakness in the lives of many of today's children. The Initiative is the result of a national call to face issues of poverty and race by the Children's Defense Fund, whose leader is Marian Wright-Edelman.

The Arkansas Cradle's charge is to dismantle the educational, social, and justice systemic barriers that

keep children from realizing their potential, and to help them make positive contributions to the community and humanity as a whole.

Three of the Arkansas Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative's goals are to identify areas that impact children from cradle to prison, to empower families and youths to challenge the norms that create the prison pipeline, and to build a solid representation of diverse stakeholders who will bring about the change.

Making collaboration work

The Cradle brings together more than 40 partners from state and federal governments, educational sectors, private companies, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community and youth organizations. These partners realize that their involvement must send strong messages to the children that barriers can be diminished when folks come together for a common good, and that high levels of achievement are not the exception but the rule. Children can grow beyond the walls of poverty and circumstance when they experience real community support and care.

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative participants have made many significant efforts since its inception in 2008. For starters, a 2009 summit held at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock raised awareness of children's urgent needs in this state.

In March 2010, the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation brought the Choice Bus to towns and cities, particularly in central and eastern Arkansas, which are most affected by poverty. The Choice Bus is a powerful, motivational tool designed for middle and junior high school students to experience what a real jail looks and feels like inside. Prisoners also reach out to students through video presentations, encouraging them to stay in school rather than travel the same path they have traveled.

The Cradle also makes monthly trips to the Tucker Prison. Making connections with current inmates offers insight and helps the Cradle plan activities that help the initiative meet its goal of breaking down the systemic barriers of the community.

Additionally, the Cradle each July takes 15-20 people to Clinton, Tenn., for a retreat at the Alex Haley Farm, where participants can enjoy a week of educational and fun-filled activities that center around current issues such as healthcare, education, mental health, social injustices and networking. The Cradle is currently working on a summit for 2011 that will continue to highlight and address the ongoing needs of children and families today.

A call to action

Dismantling poverty issues of children and families will not happen overnight. However, success comes with continued work by people who are dedicated, committed to the cause, vision and outcome, as well as by those who come together through open and honest communication in order to see things better for their community. As we all know, when people just give a little to the disadvantaged and underserved, it can make a difference, as the Cradle has seen.

The Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative represents a call to action. We must stop talking about change; we must demonstrate change. This call to action is not a cure-all, but it is a start. We can start by mentoring, volunteering and tutoring to help broaden the horizon of children, which will give them the self-confidence, self-esteem and sense of autonomy that is needed to make a difference in someone else's life.

To join this coalition and its efforts, visit the website at www.ArkansasCradle.org. The Cradle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Liberty Hill Baptist Church, 12th and Schiller streets in Little Rock. Join the Cradle as we address the issues that face youth and children.



Tracey R. Spencer is Program Director/ACT WorkKeys Job Analyst with UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement. Contact Tracey at 2801 South University Ave., Reynolds Building #477, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099; call 501-569-8483; or fax 501-569-8538.

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Weather the winter

Holiday food may tempt us and the cold winter months may challenge us, but they don't have to be unhealthy.

By Betsy Day, M.S., R.D., L.D.

We've entered the time of year when the abundance of holiday and comfort food combined with darker, colder months have a tendency to wreak havoc on normally healthy lifestyles.

But just because many people seem to think eating hefty portions falls in line with winter traditions and less daylight means slacking on exercise, it's important to remember those choices come with consequences.

Several national polls and studies indicate that the average American has a tendency to gain anywhere between seven and 15 pounds from Thanksgiving to Easter. And with that time frame well under way, it's a great reminder to go over some simple tips that could keep you on a healthy track toward spring.

If you stray, you'll pay

Everywhere you turn during the winter months there are co-workers, friends and family tempting you to indulge in unhealthy eating.

There are plenty of opportunities to cheat your health while celebrating the New Year, watching college football bowl games and the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day and beyond. And with less daylight and cooler temperatures, getting outdoors for your routine walks or runs isn't always ideal.

For example, take an average size cookie, which likely contains at least 200 calories. What might take less than 30 seconds to eat now would mean 30 minutes or so of exercise in the long term. Burning the calories from that one cookie would require jogging or fast walking about three to four miles. And how often can you stop at just one cookie?

With two-thirds of our adult population already either overweight or obese, it's important that we don't let the winter months become the trigger that puts us in this majority group. Being overweight is dangerous and even threatens to make this generation of children the first with a life expectancy that's shorter than that of their parents.

Tips to stay fit

Following just a few simple tips can help you maintain your weight through this:

- Try beginning meals with healthy salads and vegetables, which provides nutrition you need and leaves less room for unhealthy foods.
- Don't fall into the trap of the infamous New Year's resolution to "go on a diet." This gives us permission to overeat.
- If you do over-indulge, put it behind you. Return to your usual eating plan the next day and make better choices.
- Exercise at least five days a week for 30 minutes a day.
- Don't let the cold or wet weather that comes with the season hamper your exercise routine. Put on some extra layers, grab an umbrella and go for a walk.
- Limit your portion sizes at meals. Use a smaller plate and resist the urge for seconds.
- Limit your intake of alcoholic beverages. They're all calorie rich.

Make a substitution

Since you might not be burning as many calories during the winter months, an easy way to eliminate some of them can be done with some simple substitutions.

When you're making dinners or appetizers for the big game or party, try using lower-fat recipe substitutions. For example, one whole egg can be substituted with two egg whites. And instead of regular sour cream, use low-fat yogurt or sour cream. When you buy milk, get skim or one percent. Buy frozen yogurt instead of ice cream. Most products, such as mayonnaise, cheese and cream soup, have lower-fat versions you can substitute in your cooking.

In most cases, you and your family or friends won't notice the difference in taste, but they might in your waistline.



By Betsy Day is Clinic Coordinator, Program for Weight Loss and Metabolic Control, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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Program helps children, families make healthy choices

After school and summer camp programs that adopt the Wise Kids initiative are seeing results as children and their families make healthy food and exercise choices.

By Amy Rea

The Säjai Foundation is a national nonprofit devoted to battling childhood obesity and helping kids get back outdoors. The Foundation's Wise Kids programs were designed specifically for afterschool and summer camp programs, although they have also been run in traditional school programs. Among the things that make Wise Kids so useful for afterschool and summer camp programs is how easily they can be implemented. Wise Kids come with everything needed to run them, including training materials that are designed for the health and nature novice, not the expert. In fact, some programs have successfully run these programs using high school students as program leaders.

But what really can make a big difference is the enthusiasm and support from the program leaders themselves, as was seen in two different programs during the summer of 2010. The first was the recipient of the Säjai Foundation's 2010 Barb King Celebration of Life Award (King was the Foundation's founder). The award was given to inner city Minneapolis' Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC), a nonprofit organization founded in 1954 that serves youth and families. Despite the many barriers that they face in their lives, more than 6,000 young people each year go to PCYC to learn and grow as individuals as well as within a community.

This summer, despite tough economic times and an overwhelmed budget, PCYC remained determined to bring health and wellness to the forefront of its summer children's program, using teachable



Children in a Minnesota Wise Kids program learned first-hand how planting a vegetable garden is an easy path to better nutrition.

moments to help kids understand the value of healthy living. With a thoroughly engaged staff, not only did PCYC revamp its children's meal program, walking away from a no-cost meal source to seek out healthier options, it literally brought healthy food to life for the youth enrolled in its summer program. In conjunction with the Wise Kids Outdoors program and a grant from the University of Minnesota, PCYC planted a garden full of nutritious vegetables so that the children would learn how easy it is to grow nutritious food—and how good it tastes. The Wise Kids Outdoors program really sparked the children's natural curiosity about the outdoors and helped them realize and appreciate that nature can be found right outside your door, even if you live in a city.

Another grant beneficiary was Milwaukee Public Schools, which received a grant from Northwestern Mutual Foundation to expand the Wise Kids programs in Milwaukee's afterschool camp program. "Studies show that we can help tip the scales against childhood obesity when we teach kids about healthy habits," said Northwestern Mutual Foundation President Kimberley Goode. "The partnership with Milwaukee Recreation and the Säjai Foundation enables us to address the core causes of childhood obesity, make a long-term investment in local children and help secure future generations."

A standout among the Milwaukee locations was Camp Thoreau. The staff and kids at Camp Thoreau took the program to a whole new level and got the whole group of staff and more than 60 kids fired up about living a healthy life. They embraced the program from day one and added their own activities and field trips along the way, including a trip to a local organic garden/farm, morning calisthenics, and even physical challenges for parents, leaders and janitorial staff. Camp Director Karen Rosio recalled, "During Spring Break the kids watched the movie *Supersize Me*. One little girl's father would bring her fast food every day for lunch but on Friday he came at noon and just grinned and said his daughter had requested that he bring a lunch that was healthy and contained fruit. We were really amazed that it took hold that quickly and the parent responded in such a positive way."

The Säjai Foundation is so proud to have worked with such dynamic program leaders. Together we can—and will—help kids get back on track to live healthier lives and return to the outdoors.

Amy Rea is communications coordinator with the Säjai Foundation, www.sajaifoundation.org.

CALENDAR

**Arkansas Municipal League
Winter Conference
Wednesday-Friday
Jan. 12-14, 2011
Little Rock, Arkansas**

**NLC Congressional City Conference
Saturday-Wednesday
March 12-16, 2011
Washington, D.C.**

**Arkansas Municipal League
77th Annual Convention
Wednesday-Friday
June 15-17, 2011
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

Obituaries

Tom Armstrong, 63, a Cabot alderman since 2003, died Nov. 14.

Robert Hutchins "Buddy" Landfair, 82, mayor of Tillar for 25 years and an alderman for 30 years, died Nov. 7.

EPA picks Little Rock for sustainability assistance

Little Rock is among five capital cities nationwide to receive EPA assistance for sustainable design through its Greening America's Capitals program, Enviro.BLR.com announced Nov. 11. The other capitals chosen for the project are Boston; Jefferson City, Mo.; Hartford, Conn.; and Charleston, W.V.

Greening America's Capitals is not a grant program but provides direct technical assistance to communities by working with private sector experts and leveraging partnerships, such as HUD and DOT, to help communities consider development options.

The Greening America's Capitals design team will assist Little Rock with streetscape improvements that will help catalyze the redevelopment potential of the Main Street corridor.

NLR police achieves accreditation

In a process that began in 2007, the North Little Rock Police Department has become just the seventh law enforcement agency in the state to receive accreditation for the nation's most prestigious law enforcement association, *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* has reported.

The accreditation is based on standards set by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., an organization founded in 1979 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum. North Little Rock Police Department had to meet 380 mandatory standards, as well as nearly 100 other standards, dictating such policies as a department's use of force, its community outreach and its internal management and administration.

Other accredited agencies in Arkansas include police departments in Little Rock, Conway, Fort Smith, Jonesboro and Rogers. Of the about 16,000 law enforcement agencies in the country, roughly 10 percent have been accredited through the commission. North Little Rock will have to pay a \$3,735 fee for recognition, as well as an annual continuation fee of \$715 to the organization.

Fayetteville named 2010 Innovative Community Development Program winner

The Arkansas Community Development Society (ACDS) has named Fayetteville its 2010 Innovative Community Development Program winner in the over 50,000 population category for the city's Fayetteville Forward program, the city has announced in a media release.

The Fayetteville Forward program, which began in 2009, is an innovative, collaboration-based economic development initiative that engages the entire community in creating an action plan to build and foster economic development in the community. It has resulted in 18 city-led projects that are key to Fayetteville's economic development.

New study ranks healthy counties

Benton County ranks as the healthiest county in the state, according to the 2010 County Health Rankings, a new report released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Public Health Institute that reflects the overall health of counties in every state across the country.

Benton County topped the list in both the health outcomes and health factors categories. Rounding out the top five in health outcomes are Washington, Pope, Faulkner and Newton counties. Rounding out the top five in health factors are Washington, Faulkner, Saline and Sebastian counties.

The study is based upon a model of population health improvement that includes health outcomes, health factors, and programs and policies. The study ranked counties by such factors as premature death rates, low birth weight percentages, smoking rates, obesity rates, numbers of insured, employment rates, poverty rates, physical environment factors and more.

For the full report on Arkansas counties, visit www.countyhealthrankings.org/arkansas.

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2010 Elections

DELIGHT, Nov. 2
Passed. 1% for streets
For: 51 Against: 40

ELM SPRINGS, Nov. 2
Failed. 1% for general fund
For: 211 Against: 307

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Nov. 2
Failed. 1% for hospital and cities
For: 3,387 Against: 1,718

GASSVILLE, Nov. 2
Failed. 1/8¢ for police/fire ret.
For: 186 Against: 328

GUY, Nov. 2
Passed. 1% for parks
For: 154 Against: 105

IZARD COUNTY, Nov. 2
Failed. 1% for county roads
For: 1,425 Against: 2,920

LAKE CITY, Nov. 2
Passed.
1% for water/sewer and streets
For: 272 Against: 257

OZARK, Nov. 2
Passed. 1% for hospital
For: 3,441 Against: 1,763

SMACKOVER, Nov. 2
Failed. 1% for city services
For: 144 Against: 367

SALINE COUNTY, August 10
Failed. 1% sales tax for FairPlex
For: 7,312 Against: 20,081

JONESBORO, August 10
Passed. 1/2 % for public safety
For: 4,202 Against: 2,403

BATESVILLE, August 10
Failed.
1% sales tax for Parks & Rec
For: 2,093 Against: 2,264

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, August 10
Passed. 1/2 % for economic recruitment extended
For: 888 Against: 372

FARMINGTON, May 18
Passed. 1% for parks
For: 641 Against: 602

BOONEVILLE, May 18
Passed. 1% renewed for various
For: 382 Against: 184

REDFIELD, May 18
Failed. 5% for parks
For: 93 Against: 103

PIGGOTT, May 18
Passed. 1% for hospital
For: 847 Against: 125

CADDO VALLEY, May 18
Passed. 1% for water treatment
For: 70 Against: 63

ROCKPORT, May 18
Failed. 1% for city services.
For: 74 Against: 104

HAZEN, April 13
Passed. 1% for emergency services
For: 65 Against: 40

VAN BUREN COUNTY, April 13
Passed. 1% for hospital
For: 985 Against: 849

Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2010 with 2009 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
Jan.	\$34,674,109	\$35,895,776	\$35,450,558	\$38,497,274	\$70,124,667	\$74,393,050	\$60,271	\$92,482
Feb.	\$41,006,941	\$42,021,936	\$42,937,896	\$43,359,038	\$83,944,837	\$85,380,974	\$59,485	\$103,317
March	\$33,818,100	\$33,523,556	\$34,971,579	\$35,926,755	\$68,789,679	\$69,450,311	\$76,714	\$102,348
April	\$34,427,642	\$35,106,978	\$36,042,561	\$37,321,460	\$70,470,203	\$72,428,438	\$78,790	\$109,108
May	\$38,636,249	\$37,844,100	\$38,049,225	\$39,586,629	\$76,685,474	\$77,430,729	\$49,923	\$48,100
June	\$37,512,337	\$35,354,936	\$38,602,771	\$37,127,878	\$76,115,108	\$72,482,814	\$63,686	\$84,093
July	\$36,860,261	\$36,239,404	\$37,359,158	\$37,874,981	\$74,219,419	\$74,114,385	\$52,871	\$68,590
August	\$37,616,032	\$36,555,700	\$39,562,409	\$40,128,797	\$77,178,441	\$76,684,497	\$58,934	\$73,271
Sept.	\$36,434,296	\$36,037,008	\$38,376,562	\$38,673,292	\$74,810,859	\$74,710,300	\$51,022	\$69,889
Oct.	\$38,103,354	\$36,931,425	\$40,272,526	\$38,991,204	\$78,375,881	\$75,922,629	\$66,397	\$84,838
Nov.	\$36,678,265	\$35,927,998	\$39,093,545	\$37,400,814	\$75,771,810	\$73,328,812	\$44,864	\$66,406
Total	\$405,767,586	\$401,438,817	\$420,718,790	\$424,888,122	\$826,486,378	\$826,326,939	\$662,957	\$902,442
Averages	\$36,887,962	\$36,494,438	\$38,247,163	\$38,626,193	\$75,135,125	\$75,120,631	\$60,269	\$82,040

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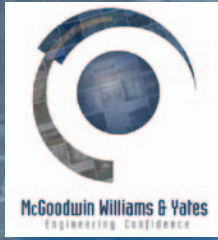
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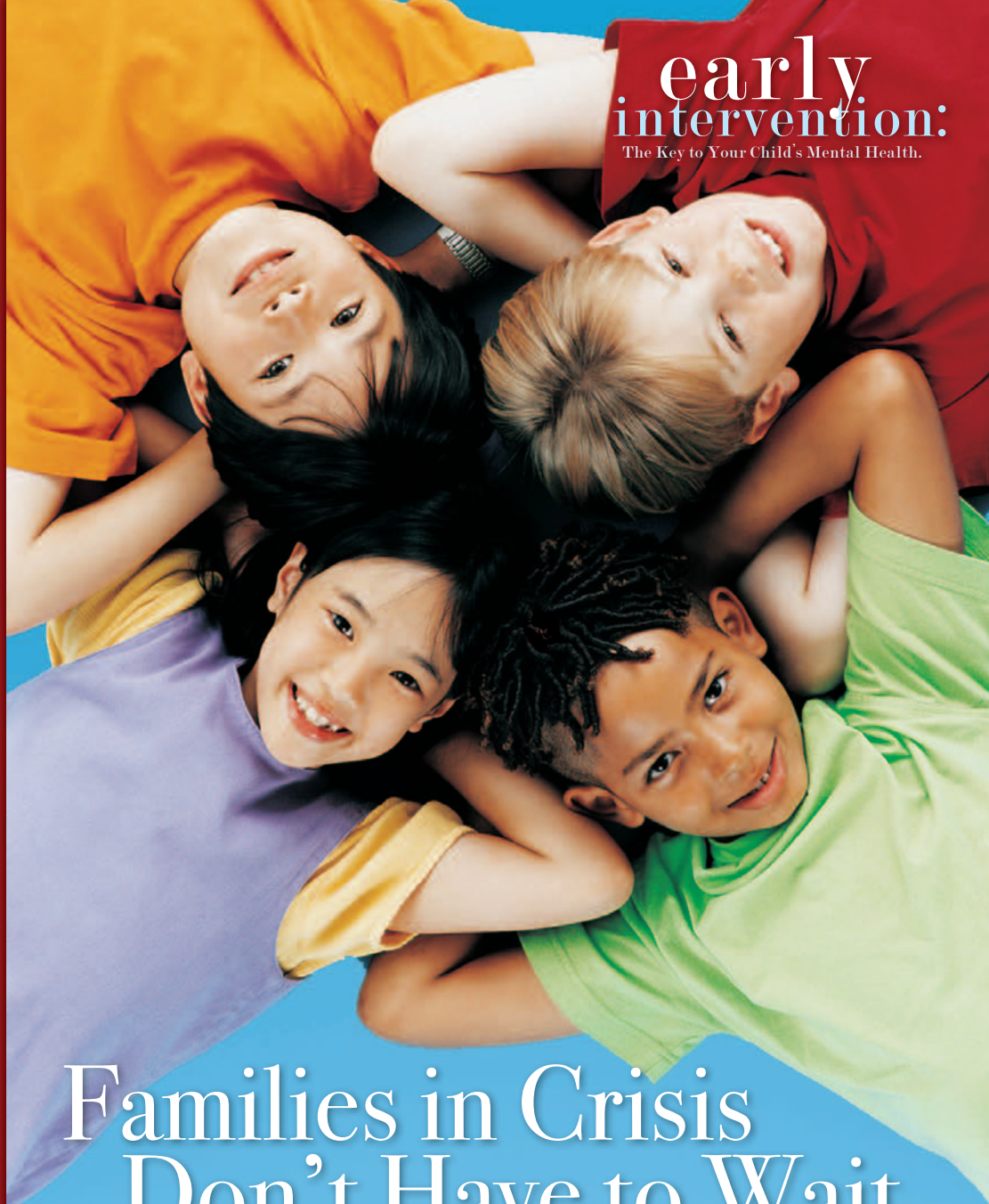
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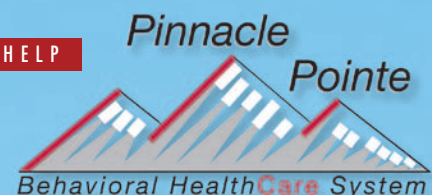
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