

City & Town

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Pictured: Michael Lindsey, Nick Papan, Ron Pyle, Jim Fowler, Carmen Quinn, Patricia Quinn, Jim Alexander, Charlie Roberts

FEATURES

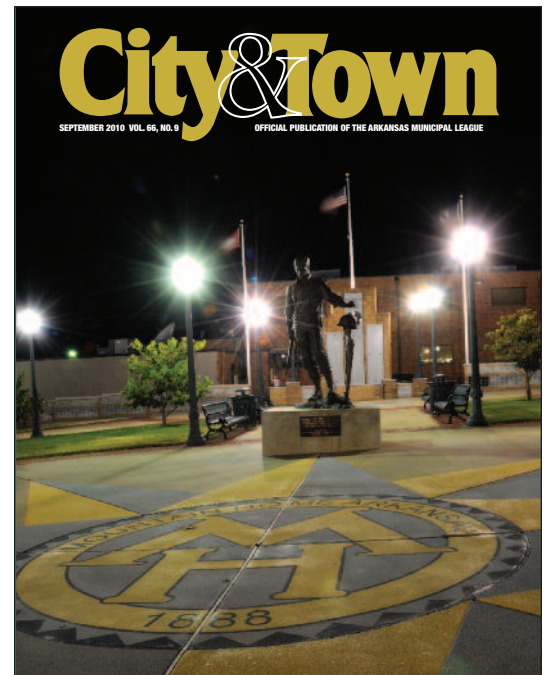
6 League leaders prep for year
The League’s Executive Meeting met in Mountain Home in August to prepare for an important year for cities and towns, which includes the fast-approaching 88th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature.

12 Elumbaugh, Batesville on the move
Batesville Mayor and League District 1 VP Rick Elumbaugh’s love for his city is evident as he works to improve the quality of life in his community.

33 League pushes to pass ballot initiatives
Passing issues No. 2 and 3 on November’s general election ballot are essential to cities and towns seeking to fund major projects.

Correction

The headline of August’s Grant Money Matters column is incorrect. It should be “Lake Village project gets nearly \$750K boost.”



ON THE COVER—Mountain Home’s “Plaza 2000,” which features park benches, a bronze statue and a memorial wall contributed by the local VFW, is dedicated to those who have given their all for our freedom. The city in August hosted the League Executive Committee’s annual planning meeting. Read about their preparations for the year and the coming legislative session inside beginning on page 6. Read also inside about Batesville and Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, our 2010-2011 District 1 vice president. And don’t forget to spread the word about the necessity of passing issues No. 2 and 3 on the ballot in November’s general election. See page 33 for more information on these important initiatives.—atm

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Cover Photo by Greg Ifland, City of Mountain Home



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Dear Friends:

Oh, the feel of fall is finally in the air. This is the beginning of a change. Hopefully this will be a good change. It is also time for us to prepare for change. There are several ways that we can prepare our staffs, our cities and ourselves.

I encourage you to take advantage of the League's new certification program. Six courses will be offered over the next 10 months. The first course will cover finance and budgeting on Sept. 15. The second course will cover human resources and personnel matters on Oct. 6. Contact League Assistant Director Ken Wasson for more information on the program and to sign up.

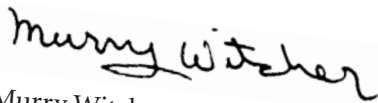
Several November ballot issues are critical for our cities and towns. Please familiarize yourself with the Interest Rate Amendment (issue No. 2 on the ballot) and the amendment to revise Amendment 82, commonly known as the Super Project Amendment (issue No. 3). The League has prepared a sample resolution that would demonstrate your community's support for these two amendments. Issue No. 2 is important because it relates to bond issues and your community's ability to finance projects. Issue No. 3 will broaden the application of economic development funding. Both initiatives will provide more flexibility and have an impact statewide. [Read more about these ballot issues in this issue—Ed.]

A favorite story comes to mind on perspective. Three people are standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon looking down. The first one, an archeologist, exclaims, "Glory, what a wonder of science!" The second one, a minister, cries, "Glory what a wonder of God!" The third, a cowboy, says, "What a place to lose a cow!" It all depends on your perspective.

Periodically local elected officials need to step back and remind themselves why they are involved in public service. What is it? Is it the fulfillment, the joy, the pleasure? Those reasons may not be realistic. The problems we face are constant, serious and ever changing. So, why do basically sane, mature adults seek public office and serve in the public sector, submitting themselves to relentless public scrutiny like bugs under a microscope? Because it's rewarding to have the opportunity to be involved in decisions that improve the quality of life for citizens, and to do something for others.

People clearly want good leaders, yet in recent years there has been a pervasive demeaning of public service. This climate of cynicism is offensive and harmful. It undermines public confidence in those who genuinely work hard to do the public's business. We face some tough obstacles at the state and federal level. As funds to local government have been reduced expectations continue to be high. We continue to receive unfunded mandates and citizen expectations for services have increased. These pressures and demands have tested local government, but we have become more innovative and creative in delivering the services our constituencies expect.

Citizens call upon local officials when they are scared, angry or frustrated, seldom when all is going well. So I ask again: Why do we serve in the public sector? I believe we do it because we see those seemingly impossible problems as opportunities. We expect to make a difference, and we do.



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



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League leaders gather to set priorities for 2010-2011

By Whitnee Bullerwell, League staff



Officials gather in the Lagerborg Dining Room of the Baxter Regional Medical Center.

MOUNTAIN HOME—While travelling to Mountain Home, one cannot help but notice the wonders of the “Natural State.” The city is known for being home to amazing mountains, lakes and rivers. As host for the League’s annual planning meeting, its city officials proved that Mountain Home is as hospitable as it is beautiful.

Committee and board members from all over Arkansas gathered to set goals and priorities, obtain status of League committees and discuss various topics of municipal interest. Presiding at the Aug. 20 meeting, North Little Rock Alderman Murry Witcher, League president, opened by thanking officials for their efforts at making 2010-2011 a great year for the cities and towns of Arkansas.

The Executive Committee approved the annual audit report, renewed the unique agreement making every League member city a direct member of the National League of Cities and completed a variety of other business ranging from the formal introduction of the League’s new voluntary certification program for mayors and aldermen to the review of the legislative agenda for the upcoming 88th General Assembly.

League dues will remain same

Regarding the 2011 Arkansas Municipal League service charge formula, the existing dues will remain the same: \$40 base for each member municipality plus 35 cents per capita with a seven cents per capita credit for participation in five

League programs consisting of the Municipal Legal Defense Program, the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, the Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Trust, the Municipal Vehicle Program and the Municipal Property Program. And for the seventh consecutive year, Executive Director Don Zimmerman reported all 500 incorporated municipalities are members of the League.

Status reports on committees, boards, League programs

Zimmerman and League staff reported on actions



Host City Mayor David Osmon welcomes officials to his fair city.

taken during the various committee meetings held before and after the Executive Committee meeting. The Investment Committee heard reports from the League's money managers who assured members that the U.S. economy "will gradually progress out of this slump." The Cash Management Trust, Pension Management Trust and Municipal Other Post Employment Benefit (MOPEB) Trust Boards did not meet at this time. That meeting has been rescheduled for Sept. 9 at League headquarters.

The Municipal Legal Defense Program (MLDP) steering committee voted to make no change to the 2011 rate formula. However, there was a change made regarding the Program's coverage agreement. The Program will no longer be 100 percent liable for judgments and defense costs. As of Jan. 1, 2011, the MLDP and its participating members will enter into a 90/10 coverage agreement.

The language found in the newly updated MLDP brochure now states:

During the term of this Program and to the extent of funds available, the Program shall, in the sole discretion of the Program administrators, provide extraordinary legal defense and extraordinary expenses in "suits against municipal officials and employees" and "civil rights suits against the municipal government" of a participating municipality and pay extraordinary judgments (for actual damages-no punitive damages) imposed on "municipal officials and employees" and the "municipal government;" however, in no event shall the Program ever be liable for more than ninety percent (90%) of any judgment for compensatory/actual damages, settlement monies, court costs and/or attorney fees. (Page two of brochure.)

The Municipal League Workers' Compensation Board of Trustees took action to amend the way members' premiums are determined. The Program will now use a modifier system to calculate the manual premium for program members. This change takes effect Jan. 1, 2011.

The Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) Board of Trustees voted to make extensive benefit changes, which will be included in the 2011 Fund Booklets and will take effect Jan. 1, 2011. Fund booklets will be received by members no later than Nov. 1 and should be read in their entirety. A small sampling of the changes include the elimination of lifetime and yearly maximums, increased preventative care benefits, out-of-network emergency room visits paid as in-network, elimination of pre-existing conditions for children up to age 19 and increased mental health benefits.

Leaders discuss legislation, highway finance, ballot initiatives

Executive Committee members also reviewed the *Policies & Goals 2010-2011* statement, approved during the 76th League Convention. This booklet was included as an insert in the August issue of *City & Town*. Discussion

pertaining to the League's legislative packet included municipal incorporation, the creation of planning and zoning boards in second class cities and incorporated towns and the apportionment of the three-mill road tax.

Conway Mayor Tab Townsell, a former League president, reported on the interim study status of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance. Currently, the taskforce is discussing a multitude of possibilities to increase funding. Options such as adding a half-cent sales tax dedicated for new highway construction, transferring sales tax monies from auto purchases, implementing an excise tax at the wholesale level on gas and diesel sales, and removing the sales tax exemption on gas and diesel sales are all being examined as viable options. The Blue Ribbon Committee's final report is due by Dec. 1 of this year. At the urging of President Witcher, a task force comprised of both city and county officials has been formed to explore areas of mutual concern. The task force held its first meeting on Sept. 3 at League headquarters.

League Finance Director Paul Young shared information on two amendments that will help create Arkansas jobs. Young stated that "issues No. 2 and 3 work hand-in-hand for Arkansas by making our state more competitive." The passage of these amendments is necessary to bring in jobs that our state desperately needs at this time. A League endorsement piece and sample resolution on these issues can be found on our homepage. The League urges our membership to make constituents aware these amendments will be on the November ballot. Passage is needed so Arkansas can continue to thrive and expand.

Turnback figures mentioned

Projections on municipal turnback were discussed. At the time of the planning meeting, information on municipal turnback was unavailable. However, turnback estimates for 2011 and costs for participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System can be found in the Executive Director's Budget Letter, which

Lake Norfork is a major source of recreation consisting of 22,000 surface acres of waters to enjoy.

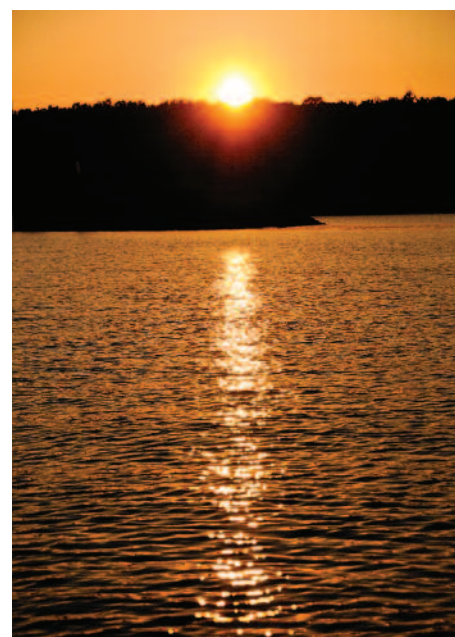


PHOTO BY GREG HILAND



Folks of Mountain Home enjoying an evening of music on the downtown square.

appears on pages 10 and 11 of this issue.

Introduction of voluntary certification program

League Assistant Director Ken Wasson informed attendees on the specifics of the newly formed Certified Continuing Education Program now offered by the League to mayors and aldermen. The Program is voluntary. For approximately a year, Wasson has been working on the curriculum to ensure the goal of increasing knowledge of local officials on how cities and towns should operate. The first in a series of four workshops will be held Sept. 15 at League headquarters on the topic of municipal budgeting. The core curriculum includes 21 hours of credit. A formal announcement of the Program is included in this issue of *City & Town*.

Renewal of services, new information and future meetings calendar

Again, Executive Committee members voted to renew contracts with The Grant Book Company and Legacy Consulting. Over their years of service to League members, the companies have helped over 400 cities and towns with funding acquisition. For 2010, both companies experienced an increase in member participation, given the available stimulus grants. Additionally, a new series of grant workshops will be hosted throughout the state in the coming months.

Also discussed was a new campaign initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama entitled “Let’s Move Cities and Towns.” This campaign is focused on eradicating the problem of childhood obesity. Astonishingly, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled just in the past three decades. “Let’s Move Cities and

Towns” recognizes the critical leadership mayors and elected officials provide to their communities and asks for your participation in this campaign. To become a “Let’s Move Cities and Towns” member, visit letsmove.gov. The League encourages cities to sign up before Nov.30.

Lastly, the Executive Committee approved the future meetings calendar for 2010-2011. The League’s Winter Conference, Jan. 12-14, 2011, will be held in Little Rock. The League’s 77th Convention will be held June 15-17, 2011, in Hot Springs. For 2010-2011, the schedule includes four seminars. The seminars will cover topics on municipal budget issues (Sept. 15), personnel matters (Oct. 6), health/wellness (Dec. 15) and procedural rules (April 28). All seminars will be held at League headquarters in North Little Rock. Information will be distributed at a later date, or you can access our Municipal

Training/Meetings Calendar on the League’s website, www.arml.org.



Officials gathered at the home of Mayor David and Nancy Osmon for a barbecue.



The Arkansas State University - Mountain Home campus is experiencing unprecedented growth at this time.



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE

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.

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Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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September 1, 2010

**TO: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COUNCILS
MAYORS, CITY ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGERS
CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, AND TREASURERS**

FROM: DON A. ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

SUBJECT: BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by League President Alderman Murry Witcher met in Mountain Home last month. Several items considered will affect your budget preparations for 2011.

League Service Charge. The Executive Committee retained the current service charge formula. The base charge is \$40 plus 35¢ per capita with 7¢ per capita credits, determined on October 1st, for participation in each of the following programs:

- Municipal League Defense Program
- Municipal Health Benefit Fund
- Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
- Municipal Vehicle Program
- Municipal Property Program

Also continued by the Executive Committee was inclusion of membership in the National League of Cities for all our members.

Municipal Legal Defense Program. The Steering Committee for the Municipal Legal Defense Program maintained the current service charges ranging from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. The optional drug & alcohol testing program for **non-**Commercial Drivers License (CDL) employees will continue to be available and can be implemented by increasing your MLDP charge by 20¢ per capita.

Municipal Health Benefit Fund. The Board of Trustees made extensive benefit changes which will be included in the 2011 booklets and will be effective January 1st. Fund booklets should be received no later than November 1st and we encourage reading it carefully. If you are not currently participating in the MHBF and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Turnback Estimates. Estimates are revised for 2010. Estimates for 2011 are dependent on 2011 legislative action. The Street Turnback estimate includes the separate check for the severance tax.

	<u>2010 (revised)</u>	<u>2011</u>
Street Turnback -	\$49.00 per capita (street& severance total)	\$47.50 per capita
General Turnback -	<u>\$16.75</u> per capita	<u>\$15.50</u> per capita
Total Turnback -	\$65.75 per capita	\$63.00 per capita

APERS Cost. For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution will increase to 13.47% from 12.46% effective July 1, 2011.

Let's Move Cities & Towns. The Executive Committee endorsed First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Cities & Towns* campaign to help solve the problem of childhood obesity. Mayors and elected officials are encouraged to sign up to be a Let's Move City or Town by the end of November. More information can be found on the website, www.letsmove.gov. To sign up online please visit: www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/letsmove/index.html.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you begin your budget preparations for 2011.

Hometown pride compels Batesville mayor

By Andrew Morgan, League staff



Batesville Mayor and League District 1 Vice President Rick Elumbaugh became involved in the League early in his term, joining the Executive Committee during his first year in office.

Batesville Mayor and 2010-2011 League District 1 Vice President Rick Elumbaugh had a feeling long before he took office in 2007 that he would one day lead his beloved hometown. Elumbaugh, a retired teacher, recalls how a fellow educator from his early years in the local school system visited him when he first took office.

“He said, ‘I can remember over 30 years ago you told me that you were going to be the mayor of the city of Batesville someday. I love a guy that follows his dreams!’”

Elumbaugh was born and raised in this lovely and historic city of about 10,000 on the White River in Independence County. Nestled in the Ozark foothills, Batesville is the oldest existing city in Arkansas, with an incorporation date of Dec. 20, 1848. Elumbaugh graduated from Batesville High School, and except for attending nearby Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, he has never lived anywhere else. He is married to

Margaret, who teaches sixth grade math in her 22nd year as an educator, and has two children, a son, 28, and a stepdaughter, who is 16 this month.

It’s Elumbaugh’s goal as mayor to see his hometown thrive, to be a progressive small city that has a lot to offer its residents and provides a great quality of life.

“Quality of life is so crucial for any type of economic development,” Elumbaugh says. “You’ve got to have it. Anywhere you go, that’s what they’re talking about.”

It’s that desire to create a better quality of life that influenced Elumbaugh to run for mayor in the first place, but his experience with the ins and outs of city government goes back to at least his college days, when he spent his summers running the city’s swimming pools. He ended up running them for 32 years, he says, right up to the summer before he took office.

“I was in city hall for 32 years dealing with the city and our city clerk, Denise Johnston. She always said, ‘You

need to run for mayor.”

And in 2006 Elumbaugh did just that. There was no particular issue that drove his decision. “I just wanted to see Batesville become a progressive community,” Elumbaugh says. His drive to move the city forward received a setback on Aug. 10 when the city’s voters failed to pass a one-cent sales tax to fund a major parks and recreation plan that includes a 70,000 square foot community center, senior citizens center, indoor and outdoor aquatics facilities, revamped city ball fields and more. Despite strong public and private support, the initiative failed by just 75 votes.

The plan is not dead, however. Elumbaugh believes strongly that they can convince voters next time around to support and fund the project, and that it will drive future economic development in Batesville.

“Maybe we were just trying to go too fast,” Elumbaugh says. “But you can’t wait until times are better to build your community. You’ve got to continue moving forward.”

Support for the project is still out there.

“When you’re licking your wounds after your defeat and you’re in a restaurant and one of your bank presidents comes up and says, ‘Hey, we’re going to do this again. This is going to work. When it’s time to support it, you let me know.’ That’s the kind of citizens we have here in Batesville.”

The parks plan may be on hold for the moment, but progress is hardly at a standstill in Batesville. The city recently completed a \$3 million upgrade on its water treatment facility. Underway right now is the start of a \$50 million, three-phase wastewater infrastructure

overhaul in the city. Phase one, which is nearly complete, involves running a six-foot pipe eight feet under the municipal golf course to get wastewater to the treatment facility. Being in a hilly area, the city uses gravity flow to its advantage as much as possible. This phase of the project came in at \$5.6 million, and with the \$6.2 million Batesville received in federal stimulus dollars for the work, Phase One is taken care of.

The city is currently doing smoke tests across the city to prepare for the later phases, which will replace the actual collection system of 70-year-old pipes.

Like cities everywhere, Batesville has experienced a loss of manufacturing jobs over the last 20 years, but the city has a growing and diverse economy and has a great working relationship with local industry, Elumbaugh says. The poultry industry has a strong presence here, with Con-Agra, Pilgrim’s Pride and Townsends each employing over 1,000. Future Fuels, formerly Arkansas Eastman, employs over 500 and makes specialty chemicals and bio-diesel. Flowers Bakery, formerly Ideal, employs more than 400. Lacroix Optical manufactures specialty lenses for telescopes and microscopes. And the city is known for its Bad Boy Lawnmowers.

Batesville has a thriving historic district. “We take pride in our downtown area,” Elumbaugh says. “That’s where our history is located.”

Most of Main Street’s storefronts are occupied, with three new businesses going in right now. Walmart may get most of the city’s shopping business, but downtown still has locally owned shoe and clothing stores, furniture stores, restaurants, two theaters and a thriving antiques scene.

(see **MAYOR**, page 15)

Elumbaugh believes that despite an initial loss at the polls, Batesville will pass the needed tax to build a state-of-the-art community center at Riverside Park.



Municipal properties named to National Register

Several municipal properties and districts have been named to the National Register of Historic Places in recent weeks, the Department of Arkansas Heritage has announced. They include the Sylvan Hills Country Club Golf Course, now known as The Greens at North Hills, a public course in Sherwood; the Tyronza Commercial Historic District; and the West Main Street Residential Historic District in Blytheville. For more information on the program, visit the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program online at www.arkansaspreservation.org.

Local airports nab federal grants

Two local airports will receive more than \$6.3 million in Federal Aviation Administration grants to make improvements, the *Northwest Arkansas Times* reported Aug. 6. The Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Authority in Bentonville will receive \$5,091,697 for an expanded terminal building. The Fort Smith Regional Airport will receive \$1,240,046 for taxiway renovation, runway repair, lighting and equipment.

Lake City PD receives funding for bulletproof vests

The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) has provided the Lake City Police Department with funding for bulletproof vests, the *Northwest Arkansas Town Crier* has reported. The AACP presented the \$1,358 check to Lake City Police Department Aug. 4. Four vests were purchased with the funds. The funding was part of a U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide this critical resource to state and local law enforcement agencies.

Fayetteville OKs “pedicabs”

Fayetteville’s City Council in August unanimously approved an ordinance allowing “pedicabs,” or pedal taxis, to operate in the city, the *Northwest Arkansas Times* reported Aug. 18. Two pedal taxi companies plan to hit the streets in the coming weeks.

The pedicabs will be allowed to operate across a large area of the city that includes downtown, the University of Arkansas and the Dickson Street entertainment district. The cabs will also be allowed on the city’s trail system if approved by the city’s transportation director. The vehicles will be inspected by the city and drivers must pass a background check. The ordinance will be reviewed after 60 days to work through any kinks that crop up.

Fayetteville Pedicab Co. plans to charge \$1 per person, plus tips. Main Street Pedal Cab, the other company looking to start up, will ask only for tips.

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Every year during the second week of August, Batesville hosts the White River Carnival here on the banks of the river that helps define the community.

Batesville is home to about 10 banks, all of which are very supportive of the community, Elumbaugh says. The city is also home to two institutions of higher learning, Lyon College and the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (UACCB).

“We’re very fortunate to have Lyon and UACCB here,” Elumbaugh says. “They’re involved in the community, and we’d like to get them even more involved.” When cities don’t have much to offer the next generation, the smartest and brightest tend to move off when they graduate, Elumbaugh says. “I want this community to be able to absorb our college graduates, to provide for them.”

Batesville’s geography is another major selling point.

“We’re two hours from Memphis and an hour and a half from Little Rock,” Elumbaugh says. “You can go to any type of destination from the city of Batesville. You can be at an international airport in two hours, or you can be at the Little Rock airport in an hour and a half and you can be on an airplane to go anywhere you want to in the world.”

With the White River, rolling Ozark foothills, trails galore and hunting and fishing opportunities everywhere you turn, it’s an outdoor lover’s dream.

This easy access to the great outdoors is another big reason why Elumbaugh has made Batesville his lifelong home. He comes from three generations of water skiers. His mother still skis at age 81. On his desk in city hall is a picture of nine members of his family, skiing in formation. He grew up skiing on the White River, but

now prefers heading to nearby Greers Ferry Lake. It’s warmer than the river, he says, which tends to stay in the 60s year-round.

The mayor enjoys hunting, but likes the social aspects of the trips more than anything else these days, he says. “Now I use hunting trips to rest.” He still meets up with his college fraternity brothers for an annual duck hunt. “I find myself being the one who takes care of the fire back at the cabin, but I always take my gun just in case!”

Elumbaugh also enjoys mountain biking and, more recently, riding his Harley Davidson. “I’m not as hardcore as Claybaker,” Elumbaugh says, referring to Harley riding Camden Mayor Chris Claybaker. “I don’t think I can keep up with him! I enjoy just getting on it and riding down by the river, or going through our parks in the evening, or going out to our sports complexes and cruising through, just letting the wind blow through my hair.”

Batesville takes pride in its historic downtown, which is home to unique shops, theaters, restaurants and more.



Carlisle Water Super retires after 41 years



Carlisle Mayor Ray Glover, left, presents Waterworks Superintendent Richard Sumner, right, with a Distinguished Service Award for his longtime service to the city.

Carlisle Waterworks Superintendent Richard K. Sumner retired in May after 41 years of service to the city and its citizens. He began his career with the city in April of 1969 at the age of 19, under then mayor Bobby Glover, now a state senator. During his years with the water department, Sumner has seen many changes, including the introduction of fluoride in 1979, the construction of the Carlisle Wastewater Facility, the erection of a new main water tank in 1999, and in 2009 the beginning of the new bypass from Interstate 40 to Arkansas Hwy. 70.

Sumner's service to the community didn't stop with the water department. He was a volunteer fireman for 25 years, and in 1987 he became a certified part-time II police officer for the city.

Friends and family gathered July 9 to show appreciation and gratitude to Sumner for his years of service. Sen. Glover presented Sumner with a Senate citation and a Capitol Citation from the state of Arkansas. Carlisle Mayor Ray Glover presented him with a Distinguished Service Award.

Announcing...

Our New Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

WHO? For Arkansas Mayors and Aldermen

WHAT? The certification plan is **voluntary**, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 hours of core topics.

WHY? To increase the knowledge of local officials on how cities and towns function and equip them with the leadership needed to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

WHEN? The first workshop in this track is focused on Municipal Finance and Budgeting. The seminar will be held on Sept. 15 at League Headquarters.

WHERE ? Through 2010, the League will hold two seminars at our Headquarters on Sept. 15th and Oct. 6th. The remainder of the courses will be held in 2011.

Topics to be covered:

- Municipal Finance/Budgeting - Sept. 15, 2010
- Human Resources/Personnel Matters - Oct. 6, 2010
- Municipal Operations/Services - January 12, 2011
- Procedural Rules/Who Does What at City Hall - April 28, 2011
- Municipal Land Use/Planning and Zoning - June 16, 2011
- Great Cities/Towns: Methods and Suggestions to Effectively Lead - June 17, 2011

For more information on the Certification Program, contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484, Ext. 211 or e-mail kwasson@arml.org.

Changes to 2010 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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

Bassett

Delete AL Samuel Lehman
 Add AL W.C. LaRue
 Delete AL Jack Felts
 Add AL Tina Russell

Brookland

Delete R/T Johna Davis
 Add R/T Brandy Settlemoir

Gravette

Delete PLD Darren Warren
 Add PLD Allyson Ransom

Greenland

Delete AL Mark Myers
 Add AL Tom Hendricks

Hardy

Delete TEL 870-856-3866
 Add TEL 870-856-3811

Lakeview

Delete AL Mark Norris
 Add AL Chuck Barnes

Marmaduke

Delete AL Tom Green
 Add AL Beth Beck

Paris

Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL Lance Jarrard

Rogers

Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL Marge Wolf

Rudy

Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL Alyson Nutter
 Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL Keith Pinson
 Delete E-Mail cityofrudy@earthlink.net

Russellville

Delete AL Cliff Kirchner
 Add AL Larry Holman

Waldo

Delete AL Mary Goodson
 Add AL Linda Blakley

West Fork

Delete AL John Richard
 Add AL Ed Stout
 Delete AL Julie Shafer
 Add AL Charlie Rossetti
 Delete PRD Stephen Sprick
 Add PRD (Vacant)

West Memphis

Delete FC Eddie Spears
 Add FC (Vacant)

Yellville

Add DJ Judith Bearden



Time To Levy Property Taxes

City and town councils may levy property taxes of up to 5 mills on the dollar. Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; Ark. Code Ann. 26-25-102 and 103. Ark. Code Ann. 14-14-904 requires the Quorum Court to levy the county,

municipal and school taxes at its regular meeting in November of each year. Ark. Code Ann. 26-73-202 requires the city or town council on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes to certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipality. Ark. Code Ann. 26-73-202. Ark. Code Ann. 14-14-904 establishes the November meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

In other words, the governing body of the city or town must levy and certify its property tax to the county court every year prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. As the Attorney General has explained, the “millage is an annual levy, and failure to levy by the required date results in a millage of zero for the following year.” (Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. Nos. 91-044; citing Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 85-5).

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. It would be advisable to have this done at the council’s October meeting at the latest.

One cure for the empty downtown blues

While many downtowns have lost their attraction, communities like Helena-West Helena and Mountain Home have successfully re-magnetized their city centers.

By Jim von Tungeln

With all the hot weather over the summer, nothing flourished except opinions. I grew a couple of my own, and don't mind sharing them with you for what they are worth. I'll try my best to link them.

For example, next month, we once again have the opportunity to attend what is, in my opinion, the premier downtown festival in Arkansas. I refer, of course, to the Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival in downtown Helena-West Helena. Talk about fun. The thing about this festival is that it is organic. They don't just sing the blues at this spot. They channel them from the musty old buildings and the muddy waters of the Mississippi River itself. In some of those buildings, Robert Johnson played the blues and started, some say, this whole Rock and Roll Thing. Entertainers need neither a passport nor an escort to come here and perform. It's as real as we'll find it in this life (the experience, I mean).

For three days, downtown will be packed to bursting with folks who have come to enjoy the music, drink in the atmosphere, and sample the food. Given the right combination thereof, some of them might even try to dance. That, in itself, is often worth the price of admission.

All this will remind us that downtowns across the state used to be like this every Saturday night. If I knew a way to make it happen again, I should win the

Nobel Prize for Urbanism. I don't, but that won't stop me from offering some opinions.

Not to denigrate other efforts at downtown revitalization, I offer this opinion: What made downtowns what they were 60 years ago was magnetism, simple magnetism. When everything you need is in one small area, and if all the roads, paths and rails converge at that area, it makes sense that people will be drawn there. It wasn't until the needs of the automobile made that great hissing noise that accompanies centrifugal force and spun everything out to the suburbs that downtowns lost their magnetic attraction.

So what can we do to re-magnetize it?

I can't think of anything better than music, food, drink and fun.

I'm always amused when I visit with one of the downtown gurus, fresh from their introductory seminar on downtown revitalization and already possessing more knowledge about the subject than a thousand old goats like me. I always ask: What kind of activities do you plan on a regular basis? The answer is almost always the same. "Why we have our (fill in the name) Festival here once a year."

Once a year? That creates a lot of magnetism, eh?

Why not talk to Mayor David L. Osmon up in Mountain Home? He has a festival every Friday night. Know what? It's working. He reports that one restau-



The laid-back crowd enjoys the blues and good times on the Mississippi River levee in Helena-West Helena.



Cherry Street in Helena-West Helena stays full during the Blues and Heritage Festival. The author is probably in there somewhere.

rant owner credits this regular gathering for saving his business.

It seems to me that there should be so much scheduled downtown that when a family starts planning its week, one of the questions should be, “What’s going on downtown this weekend?” I think the River Market area in my city has reached that plateau.

Where do you find the performers? Well, throw a quarter in our state and you’ll likely hit either a bluegrass band, a blues band, a church group, a garage band, a high school band group, or a bunch of old men like me who will go anywhere and play music where there will be a group to participate and a group to listen. Want proof? Try to find downtown Mountain View deserted at any reasonable hour on any day of the week.

Another way, it seems to me, to insert magnetism into downtown is synergy. This is just the simple process of combining, concentrating and coordinating activities, events and attractions. Downtown merchants—some of whom can make an Arkansas mule seem cooperative by comparison—should be an integral part of the entire effort. By this I mean they should coordinate hours and motifs, not only with one another but with special events.

I once attended a production that filled one of the largest venues in the state, one that is located in the

middle of the downtown area. The event started at 5 p.m. and nobody bothered to tell the downtown restaurants that thousands of people would be descending upon their area and wanting to grab an early snack or refreshment. It was a real mess and still causes bad memories.

Finally, it is, in my opinion, a tragedy beyond describing to allow downtown to lose the few natural magnets that remain. I’m talking about things like libraries, post offices and public facilities. It’s equally tragic if we don’t choose downtown as a setting for new magnets. The folks in North Little Rock had the wisdom to locate the Dickey-Stephens Baseball Park between two downtown areas that are supported by residential neighborhoods. Now that’s real magnetism and it has worked out well.

I present these opinions not as a cure-all for the empty downtown blues (no pun intended). There are certainly downtowns that have achieved success with other approaches. I simply suggest that, if you can’t think up anything else to do to bring a little life to your downtown, strike up the band.



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at 501-372-3232. His Web site is www.planyourcity.com.

When disaster strikes, teams strike back

The Arkansas Forestry Commission in August hosted a week-long training course for the Urban Forest Strike Team at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. Thirty-five people participated from nine states, which included Mississippi, North Carolina, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Kentucky, New York and Maryland. Here is an explanation of the program and how it could help your community after a disaster.

By Dudley R. Hartel, guest writer



Dudley Hartel, center, gives crew assignments for afternoon UFST workshop training.

The Urban and Community Disaster Response program is a disaster response pilot project initiated by the urban and community forestry programs in Virginia and North Carolina. It is being tested on regional scale by the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF). SGSF is a nonprofit organization consisting of state foresters from 13 southern states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Urban Forest Strike Teams (UFSTs) are composed of state forestry agency certified

arborists trained to make urban tree damage assessments following natural disasters.

The primary objective of this project is to develop an in-state and regional capacity to respond to disasters by providing effective, practical and comprehensive urban tree assessment training to state agency arborists.

Recent UFST responses have included:

- Oklahoma—During January and February 2008, UFSTs

responded to assist Oklahoma communities affected by the December 2007 ice storm. Three teams each spent a week in the cities of Tulsa, Bixby, and Nichols Hills.

- Louisiana—During September and October 2008, UFST team leaders and task specialists responded to Hurricane Gustav in Baton Rouge. Two teams spent 10 days each assisting with tree assessments along city streets and in parks.

- Arkansas and Kentucky—During February and March 2009, two teams were deployed to six communities in northern Arkansas and western Kentucky and spent 10 days each providing tree assessments in parks, along trails and in other public areas.

Communities benefit from the response in several ways:

- Assistance can be provided to communities that lack professional capacity or expertise.
- Trained, experienced, certified arborists assist communities with decisions that affect public safety and the long-term viability of their urban forest.
- Tree management information is obtained in a timely manner for response and recovery.
- Assistance is provided at the stage of disaster response most appropriate for the community.
- Assessments can be used in-house or with contractors to facilitate debris removal and reimbursement with FEMA.

The UFSTs can provide post-disaster tree assessments to help urban and wildland-urban interface

communities respond and/or recover from natural disasters.

Assessment sends trained teams into a disaster area following a community's initial response for safety and restoration of basic utilities. Teams quickly and thoroughly evaluate public trees to determine the extent of public risk. Individual trees are designated for removal or pruning to eliminate risk to the public. The trees are spatially identified so that contractors or municipal staff can easily relocate the tree for the recommended action.

The objective of the assessment is to reduce the loss of additional trees during the response phase of the disaster. Assessment can also include the measurement of debris volume for the community's contract discussions with FEMA for debris reimbursement.

Dudley R. Hartel is Center Manager, Urban Forestry South, USDA Forest Service, 320 Green St., Athens, Georgia 30602; www.urbanforestrysouth.org; www.ufst.org.

Tree inventory and pre-storm assessment

Thanks to Dudley Hartel for the information on UFSTs. Not only can we help you after the storm, we can help you before a storm event occurs, with a tree inventory/pre-storm assessment in your public areas. To manage your trees, you need to know the condition of your urban forest, and that includes hazard trees or trees that could be saved with proper pruning cuts before a devastating storm event.

Make a memory ... plant a tree.



The Arkansas Forestry Commission's Patti Erwin, left, participates with foresters from other states in the region in an Aug. 9 UFST workshop held at the Arkansas 4-H Center near Little Rock.

NRPA sets bar for background checks

The National Recreation and Park Association is helping keep our parks safe through its nationwide background check guidelines.

By Joe Abel

You've heard it before: Perception is reality. As professionals in parks, recreation and conservation, we have a perception problem that requires deliberate and immediate action.

People born between 1946 and 1964 are all part of the Baby Boom generation. Many clearly remember growing up in their neighborhood park or open space, creating games and playing with friends until the street light came, signaling the time to come home. Parents knew where their children were, and trusted that with the exception of an occasional cut, bump or bruise, they were safe. When the time came for the "boomers" to raise their families, investing in parks, playgrounds, and programs was a no-brainer because they recognized the positive contribution parks had on their childhood as safe places to have fun, build friendships and to just be a kid.

Along with the reputation of the local school system, parks and recreation facilities factored into the decision where boomers would decide to establish roots and raise their children.

In recent years we've witnessed a broad and growing perception among the public that parks, playgrounds and recreation programs present safety risks that go beyond cuts, bumps and bruises. Parents have become extremely protective and rightfully so. When a child expresses an interest to go to the park or to participate in a program, the parent thoughtfully considers if they will be able to carve out the time required to be there to watch over them. Missy Poirier, a mom in South Florida, says she doesn't stray too far away from her six-year-old daughter when she participates in soccer, cheerleading, golf and tennis. "We stay there, we like to know what's going on," Poirier said. "You don't know who your kids are going to be left with."

Adding to that perception are unsubstantiated rumors and dreadful headlines that appear far too often indicting parks and programs as an accomplice in wrongful behavior. Personal safety concerns have devalued park facilities and programs that were once perceived as community assets.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is working to change this perception. If you are not a member, consider this: With 24,000 members representing 4,000 communities we have the combined influence to fortify our place among all community services when we do our part to make our communities safe.

I challenge every park, recreation and conservation professional to provide a consistent approach to background screening in all 50 states through the NRPA's Recommended Guidelines for Credentialing.

The NRPA has provided each of us with the opportunity to demonstrate that as the gatekeepers of community parks and

programs we are doing everything in our power to overcome any doubt that the personal safety of our visitors and participants is integral to our objectives.

NRPA has set the bar for background checks

Experience has taught us that not every person who is willing to serve as a volunteer or paid staff should be provided this opportunity. The NRPA created the Recommended Guidelines for Credentialing to outline the best practices in conducting a comprehensive national criminal background check for park, recreation and conservation agencies.

To help create the guidelines, the NRPA researched professional firms to find the best fit in providing the required technical assistance. In 2005 the Association selected Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. (SSCI) to provide technical support necessary to compose guidelines for consideration. The NRPA guidelines have since been reviewed and approved by over 300 city and county attorneys.

An early adopter in November 2006 was the city of Tukwila, Wash. Volunteer and Special Event Superintendent Tracy Gallaway said, "I sleep better at night much more confident in the extensiveness of the background check results we receive due to the NRPA guidelines than those we were getting from the state-only check."

From 2007-2009, SSCI conducted 25,606 background checks for NRPA members following the Recommended Guidelines. Even though every person consented to the background check, a stunning 1,010 had something in their background that disqualified them from public service. Statistically there are an additional 868,000 people potentially infiltrating the current paid and unpaid workforce that should never be granted the privilege of working with our most vulnerable populations.

Another revealing statistic is that 13 percent of those disqualified from 2007-2009 had committed their offense outside their state of current residence. A state-only check would have allowed them to fall through the cracks.

The bar has been raised for background screening in the field of parks, recreation and conservation. The NRPA Recommended Guidelines are now the benchmark and meet the CAPRA standards for agency accreditation. They provide us with a consistent, effective and affordable approach to background screening in all 50 states. For more information on the guidelines, visit the NRPA online at www.nrpa.org/tlc2.

Joe Abel is Director of Leisure Services, Seminole County, Fla.; past president, FRPA; and past board member, NRPA.

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Revitalized downtowns benefit whole communities

Taking care of your downtown can have a large impact on how your community is viewed by visitors and prospective employers alike.

By Mark S. Goodman, CEcD

Increasingly, we are realizing the importance of taking care of our communities as the “product” that we promote as a great place to live, work and play. What we do to prepare our communities to be those great places falls under the category of community development. While there are many facets of community development, in this issue we will discuss the information regarding a community’s downtown. What is a downtown revitalization program and why are such programs important to successful community economic development? Hopefully we can shed some light on this important element of community development.

What are downtown revitalization programs?

Nationwide and for decades, many communities have struggled to create and maintain economic viability in their downtowns. Downtowns have had to compete with the expansion of commercial nodes as their communities have grown away from the city center. In years past, downtown business owners attempted to compete with their suburban competition by trying to look like them, that is, like shopping centers. They remade the appearance of their downtown businesses by slip-covering their business façades with aluminum, plywood and multi-colored tile (just to name a few measures), masking the very qualities that make downtowns unique. Today across the country, communities are reclaiming their “central business districts” as a destination again. For many communities, the new economic activity downtown is a departure from its original economic purpose.

Downtown revitalization is described as enhancing the social, political, physical and economic value of the traditional central business district of a community. This is achieved by attracting social activities, entertainment, recreation, shopping and employment to the district. Successful downtown revitalization efforts require methodical and organized measures, a plan and the support of the community. When they succeed, the benefits will be realized throughout the entire community.

The most recognizable and basic downtown revital-

ization activities include such things as:

- Organizing a body of people who have a special interest in the district;
- Preparing a design plan for land use and physical appearance improvements for both privately and publicly owned property;
- Devising a strategy to restructure the downtown retail and commercial economy, including strategic business development programs with the data and analysis to inform those efforts; and
- Sponsoring special events and celebrations to increase visitor and customer traffic in the downtown.

Impact of downtown revitalization to the community

Successful downtown revitalization programming can improve a community’s future both directly and indirectly by:

Improving the image of the community and preventing blight and abandonment of properties;

- Developing a sense of community, encouraging citizen engagement;
- Preserving the community’s history and character;
- Making use of existing buildings while providing for varied retail and service options;
- Expanding the tax base and reducing retail leakage from a community; and
- Creating jobs.

Downtown revitalization is the focus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Trust Main Street Center. In our state, we are fortunate to have the Arkansas Main Street Association. The intent of Main Street programs is to complete a prescribed set of actions and activities designed to improve the economic well-being of the traditional business districts. The program focuses on four main points: organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring. All four activities benefit from benchmarks, require a plan and must be integrated to realize success. For more information about the Arkansas Main Street Association, visit their website at www.arkansaspreservation.com/main-street.

Where do I get help?

Community development programs such as this can play a profound role in the marketing of your community to others in an effort to create jobs. Comprehensive community development programming requires some careful planning, organizing, data-gathering and consensus-building. There are a number of informational resources available in Arkansas to assist communities. Many communities appropriately first turn to the Arkansas Main Street Association for direction, and pursue becoming an Arkansas Main Street community.

Additionally, for further information regarding programming for local leaders focused on this and other topics, please feel free to contact us at the Institute for Economic Advancement at 501-569-8519.



Mark Goodman is Director of the Center for Economic Development Education, Institute for Economic Advancement, UALR. E-mail Mark at msgoodman@ualr.edu.

New trends in economic development

Part 2: Designing an economic experience in Arkansas

This is the second in a four-part series focusing on the newest trends in economic development and how they can benefit Arkansas cities and towns.

By Daniel Hintz and Paul Esterer, guest writers

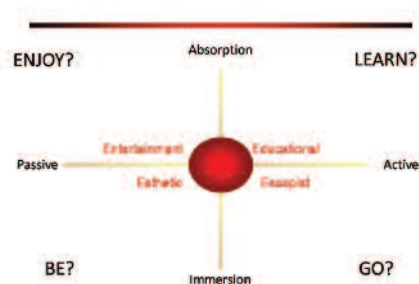
In part one of this series we introduced the idea that with increasing global competition for businesses, community experience design is now a necessary part of a comprehensive economic development strategy to offer something unique and compelling to a potential investor.

Before starting the experience design process, it is vital that you identify a centralized theme or experience brand you are trying to convey. The process for developing a theme takes into consideration the thoughts, feelings, perceptions, images, beliefs, attitudes and more that would be relevant to your specific community.

It does not always have to be overt—say, painting the town green on St. Patrick’s Day—but could be used as a subtext to focus the design process. The city of Milwaukee captured this through its unique cream colored bricks used in buildings throughout the city. Milwaukee used the brick’s unique history to theme festivals, neighborhood design standards and even merchandise without yelling from the rooftops, “This is about a brick!” Once a theme has been identified, it becomes much easier to synchronize your actions and engage community members to get involved.

Joe Pine and Jim Gilmore, economists who first identified this process in their 1999 book *The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre & Every Business a Stage*, emphasized that a designed experience also entails a well-orchestrated whole that captures elements within four distinct areas: entertainment, educational, esthetic and escapist.

Finding the sweet spot for experience design...



4E Model used by permission from Strategic Horizons, LLC.

Entertainment can be as simple as theatre performances in the park, live music outside of a bookstore or a movie on a downtown square. Whatever the case, the question to ask is, “What can be done to make the experience more fun and enjoyable for the consumer?”

The education element can include signage and way-finding aids that guide people around a neighborhood or city, historical landmark plaques that highlight important elements of a community’s story, or community kiosks that promote upcoming special events. This element drives what you want both visitors and residents to learn while exploring.

The escapist element can include an alley with public art, or an Indian restaurant in the middle of downtown. The essence of this is how to transport guests from one sense of reality to another. Communities may want to create an area or place in which their residents or visitors can immerse themselves that reinforces the theme or cues of that area. Consider Disneyworld. The amusement park has created areas that reinforce the rides, food, and architecture that

see **Trends**, page 27

Knowing risks, early detection keys to battling prostate cancer

Arkansas is no exception to the startling nationwide statistics that show prostate cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men of all races.

By Mohamed Kamel, M.D.

Each year, nearly 2,000 men in Arkansas learn they have prostate cancer, with more than 300 dying from it annually. And African-American men are at even greater risk than Caucasian or Asian men.

But the good news is that even though the diagnosis rate remains steady, the death rate is on the decline thanks to new treatment options and earlier diagnosis. Like with other cancers, the most effective weapon against prostate cancer is finding it early through effective screening programs and educational initiatives.

What is it?

The better your understanding of the normal development and function of the prostate the more aware you'll be of its risks.

A normal, healthy prostate is a tiny spongy gland that is most often compared to being the size of a walnut. It's located under the bladder and in front of the rectum, and is intersected by the urethra, which carries urine and semen out of a man's body.

Though the prostate is not an essential organ for life, it is vital for reproduction.

What are the risks?

An abnormal growth of cells in the prostate gland, prostate cancer is one of the more slow-growing cancers, though there are instances when it grows and spreads rather quickly.

A cause is not yet completely understood, but research has pinpointed a handful of factors that drastically increase your chances of developing the disease.

Age is perhaps the most identifiable risk, as a man's chance of developing prostate cancer increases exponentially over the age of 50, and continues to increase as he ages. More than 70 percent of prostate cancers are found in men over age 65.

Family history also determines a man's level of risk. If a close relative has had prostate cancer, a man's risk more than doubles, and with two relatives the risk is multiplied five times. A 97 percent chance of developing prostate cancer is present if three close relatives

have been diagnosed in the past.

Ethnicity is also a key factor, with African-American men being diagnosed more than 70 percent more often than Caucasian men, making them twice as likely to die from the disease.

Diet also plays an important role, as men who eat a lot of red meat and have a high-fat diet have shown an greater chance of getting prostate cancer. Those men tend to eat fewer fruits and vegetables and more dairy products, and researchers have not pinpointed which of those factors is to blame for an increased risk. But we do know that proper diet and exercise are important.

How will I know?

There are seldom symptoms or warning signs of early prostate cancer, making routine screening the only sure way to make a quick diagnosis and vastly improve outcomes.

Men over age 50 should be screened annually, while African-American men and those with a family history of prostate cancer should consider screenings beginning at age 40.

A prostate exam often includes a digital rectal exam and a prostate-specific antigen blood test, both of which are simple, quick, safe and relatively painless.

If a diagnosis is made, the four most common treatments include surgery, radiation therapy, hormone treatments and careful surveillance, depending on a variety of factors.

Though the statistics are somewhat daunting, it's important to remember that men can greatly improve their chances of beating prostate cancer by simply knowing the risks we outlined, getting screened at the appropriate time and eating a healthy diet.



Mohamed Kamel, M.D., is Assistant professor, Department of Urology, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Volunteer Community of the Year nominations open soon

It's time to consider nominating your town for the annual Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year awards. The awards, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League, the Governor's Office and the DHS Division of Volunteerism, honor 12 communities each year for outstanding citizen volunteerism. To download the nomination form and instructions online, visit www.arkansas.gov/dhs/adov and follow the link to "Community of the Year Awards."

Nominations will be accepted beginning in July. The nomination deadline is September 30. If you have any questions about the nomination process, call 501-682-7540 and provide your name, address and telephone number.

Trends, continued from page 25

correspond to the place you escape to.

The esthetics of a community is not necessarily focused on beauty, but the very nature of self. Somewhat ambiguous, it is the act of "being" in a space. Whether it is sitting in a pocket park enjoying the sun, walking down a trail listening to the birds, or enjoying a morning cup of coffee at the local outdoor café, it is offering the opportunity to "be," a rare and important gift in today's fast paced world.

Understanding your theme and incorporating the 4E Strategy into community design shoots straight into the "sweet spot" of the experience—that intersection of all four elements—and focuses usually limited resources to maximize impact.

In Part 3 we will explore the possible experience stages as they relate to Arkansas communities, and in Part 4 we will give some suggestions for programs and policies that communities may want to consider implementing to maximize our experience economy.

Daniel Hintz is the executive director of Downtown Bentonville, Inc. Contact Daniel at 301 NE Blake Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712; call 479-254-0254; or email daniel@downtownbentonville.org.

Paul Esterer is Bentonville-based commercial banker, real estate developer and advisor, community development consultant, founder of Grubb & Ellis/Solomon Partners, and founder and CEO of Vanadis 3 Companies. Contact Paul at 609 SW 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72712; call 479-271-6118; or email pesterer@vanadis3.com.



First Lady Michelle Obama is calling on mayors and elected officials across the country to join her Let's Move! campaign. Let's Move Cities and Towns engages mayors and other municipal leaders in the campaign to solve the problem of childhood obesity within a generation. Let's Move Cities and Towns emphasizes the unique ability of communities to solve the challenge locally, and the critical leadership mayors and elected officials can provide to bring communities together and spur action.

Let's Move! for cities and towns is designed to encourage elected officials to adopt a long-term,

Become a Let's Move City or Town!

sustainable and holistic approach to fight childhood obesity. Once a city signs us as a prospective Let's Move City or a Let's Move Town, it will choose at least one significant action to take over the following 12 months in each of the four pillar areas:

- Help parents make healthy family choices
- Create healthy schools
- Provide access to healthy and affordable food
- Promote physical activity

**SIGN UP TO BE A LET'S MOVE CITY OR TOWN!
BEFORE NOV. 30, 2010.** To do so, visit www.hhh.gov/intergovernmental/letsmove/index.html



Municipal Property Program

Your Municipal Property Program offers broad coverage for your municipal property. The limits of coverage are \$50 million per occurrence per member for damages from fire, windstorm and other incidents in excess of \$5,000.

Coverage is \$15 million per occurrence per member for losses exceeding \$100,000 on earthquakes and flooding.

The Municipal Property Program's 2009 annual meeting in November adopted rates according to the following scale for 2010. See the new rates below.



FIRE CLASS I	—	.0014	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.0015	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0017	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0019	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.002	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0025	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0027	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.0033	X	covered value	=	Premium

For more information, call Linda Montgomery at League headquarters, 501-978-6123 or 501-374-3484, Ext. 233.



Maximize Your Benefit.

Join the Municipal Health Benefit Fund

Approximately 90 percent of the municipalities across Arkansas that offer employees and officials medical benefits have joined the Municipal Health Benefit Fund and receive \$2,000,000 major medical coverage with stop-loss, employee life, accidental death and dismemberment, dependent life, dental and vision coverages.

For 2010, new additions to the Municipal Health Benefit Fund are:

- Increased wellness benefits for all covered adults
- Increased well baby care visits
- Hearing aid benefit
- HIPAA authorization to release medical information (form in booklet and on Web site)
- Clarification of retiree coverage

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.

Fighting the silent killer through exercise

By Jeremy Miller, Cooper Aerobic Institute

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), about one in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure, but because there are no symptoms, nearly one-third of these people don't know they have it. In fact, many people have high blood pressure for years without knowing it. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, heart failure or kidney failure. This is why high blood pressure is often called the "silent killer." The only way to tell if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked.

Blood pressure is the amount of pressure the blood forces against artery walls. Two forces create blood pressure. The first comes from the heart pumping the blood into arteries, and the second is the artery force resisting the blood flowing through them.

You should have your blood pressure checked at least once every two years. Normal blood pressure is 120/80 or lower. The top number is called your systolic pressure. This number is equivalent to the pressure caused when the heart contracts and pumps blood to the rest of your body. The lower number is called your diastolic pressure. This number corresponds to the pressure caused by the heart relaxing between beats.

Through exercise, you can control your blood pressure and decrease your chance of a heart attack or stroke. Exercise generally decreases both the systolic and diastolic components of your blood pressure value by about 10 points. This change does not take years of work, but can occur as early as one to three months after beginning

an exercise routine.

Exercise also helps lower your chance of heart disease through weight control. Blood pressure is often elevated with added weight gain. Losing just 10 pounds may reduce your blood pressure significantly. Individuals with high blood pressure and exercise regularly have lower death rates than those that do not exercise.

Aerobic exercise is the best exercise to help decrease high blood pressure. This can include walking, jogging, swimming, cycling, or a group fitness classes. These exercises do not have to be strenuous activities. A good rule is your heart rate and breathing should be elevated, but you should still be able to carry on a conversation.

The Cooper Institute recommends accumulating 30 minutes or more of exercise on most days of the week. While finding 30 minutes of free time each day can seem like an impossible feat, begin with baby steps. This time can be broken up into smaller segments throughout the day.

To continue to see benefits you must maintain a consistent exercise routine. The benefits of exercise quickly cease after you stop exercising. So, try to make it enjoyable and interesting to stay motivated. Grab a friend, or vary the frequency, intensity, amount of time, or the type of exercise. Whatever you do, keep moving.

Physical activity can control your healthy destiny in life.

For more information, contact the Cooper Fitness Center in Dallas at 972-233-4832, or visit www.cooperaerobics.com.

Visit Us.

www.arml.org

October is Act 833 funding deadline

The deadline to apply for 2010 State Fire Grant Act 833 funds through the office of Fire Protection Service is October 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify for the 2010 funding year. For more information on the grant program, call Jimmy Woods at 501-683-6781.

Steadfastness yields prosperity for Dell

By Sherman Banks

Dell's steadfastness has paid off for the town of 251. After more than a decade of twists and turns over a proposed natural gas-fired power plant in the town, Dell has come to a settlement that grants the city a \$4 million lump sum with an additional \$3 million to be paid over a 30-year period as host to the plant.

The tale of the windfall started in the fall 1999, when Genesis Power Corporation (Gen Power) of Baltimore approached Dell Mayor Kenneth Jackson to see if the town would allow a natural gas-fired power generating plant to be built within the town's limits. Jackson needed more information, and within a few days a small delegation arrived from Baltimore to explain the details of Genesis' idea. Dell was the ideal location for the station because of its large Entergy substation and its close proximity to a large gas main. After that meeting Jackson took the proposal before the town council and attorney. After deliberation they decided to pursue the offer.

The town entered into a PILOT (or Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) agreement with Gen Power. State law requires that all taxing entities—Mississippi County and the Gosnell School District—must also sign off on the agreement. In 2000 the city of Dell, Mississippi County and the Gosnell School District signed the agreement with Gen Power.

Before Gen Power broke ground the power plant, it sold the project to Tampa Electric (TECO Power) out of Tampa, Fla., which assumed the PILOT agreement. TECO began the project and was 95 percent completed when the collapse of ENRON

devastated the financial markets. The project then sat incomplete for about two years.

In 2005 an AECI Co-op from Springfield, Mo., approached Dell about purchasing the project. AECI did not want to pay the agreed-upon amount of \$600,000 annually for 30 years, so they made a counteroffer of \$200,000 annually for 30 years, which was unacceptable to Dell. AECI then decided to approach Mississippi County and the Gosnell School District to negotiate a new PILOT that excluded the city of Dell.

Dell filed a lawsuit against AECI requiring Dell's inclusion in the new agreement. After many sessions at the negotiating table with AECI, Mississippi County and Gosnell School District, an out-of-court settlement was reached. Dell received \$4 million dollars in a lump sum with an additional \$3 million dollars to be paid over a 30 year period, or \$100,000.00 annually.

Despite all of the problems that threatened to dismantle this project, Mayor Jackson remained steadfast, he said, because he believed that the presence of a power plant would make for a better quality of life not only the city of Dell, but for Mississippi County and the entire Delta region.



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



Check us out.

www.arml.org

Arkansas Municipal League - Great Cities Make a Great State

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North Little Rock

- About the League
- Staff Directory
- Calendar of Events
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- Legislative Action Center
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- Benefit Programs
- Legal FAQs
- Related Resources
- Classifieds
- Cities of Arkansas

Welcome to the Arkansas Municipal League website. We are an instrumentality of municipal governments from throughout Arkansas. Our website includes information [about the League](#), how to [contact League staff](#), a [calendar](#) of League events, an online version of [City & Town magazine](#) and information about other publications. We are proud to present a [legislative action center](#), where visitors have the opportunity to receive information about the General Assembly. Our [League Programs](#) section outlines the various municipal programs that we sponsor. [Related Resources](#) will give the visitor a listing of other websites of interest.

Arkansas.gov eNewsRoom

- Mayor James Valley issues veto of civil service commission - [Helena Daily World](#)
- Van Buren Gives Insurance Option - [Fort Smith Times Record](#)
- Area airports received federal grant money - [The News](#)
- Decoration Sunday at Ball Hill Cemetery - [Russellville Courier](#)
- EUREKA SPRINGS : Outdoor art exhibit draws ire, compliments - [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#)

Register for our 75th Convention— June 17-19, 2009!
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****Tentative Convention Agenda****
****Tentative CLE Agenda****

Federal Trade Commission Extends FACTA Deadline to August 1, 2009
Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003

Photo Gallery

Submit photos of your city or town for display on the League's homepage to [arkarml.org](#)

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AML Cash Management Trust
Daily Market Rate= .14%
(as of 5/22/09)

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- eNewsRoom offers online news articles from Arkansas's municipalities' dailies.
- *City & Town* is available to download in its entirety in PDF from the *Publications* page.
- *Cities of Arkansas* local government portal page gives visitors a sneak peek at the quality of life in the municipalities across Arkansas.
- Flyout menus provide easier navigation and cut down on search time.
- A search engine makes it easy to locate topics, based on specific words.
- *Legislative Action Center* is now home to legislative matters, including a new *Legislative Bulletin*.
- eCart, order and pay for publications and mailing lists online.
- *Legal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page*

Leaders Announce Campaign to Pass Issues No. 2 & 3

HOT SPRINGS (Aug. 24, 2010) – Leaders from across the state gathered this morning at the annual Arkansas Economic Developers conference to announce the campaign to pass Issues No. 2 and 3 in the November general election.

Addressing a crowd of more than 200 supporters, Campaign Chairman Randy Zook, President and CEO of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce stated, “Arkansas is at competitive disadvantage in recruiting jobs and investment dollars. Passing Issues No. 2 and 3 will level the playing field with surrounding states.”

Issue No. 2 is a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution revising the state’s out-of-date interest rate laws. It does three things:

- Removes the existing method of setting the interest rate cap on all government bonds and loans, and allow the Legislature to set the limits, which can be modified as required by changing economic and market conditions;
- Eliminates the current below-market interest rate cap on consumer and other loans (which effectively prevent local businesses from offering credit to customers) while preserving the existing interest rate cap at 17 percent; and,
- Allows local governmental units to save public funds by providing an effective method of financing energy savings projects.

Don Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal League, said, “Passing Issues No. 2 and 3 is critical to cities all over the state. When the current laws were put in place decades ago, interest rates were double digits. Now, Arkansas has the most restrictive laws in the United States, which impact and sometimes prohibit our ability to raise money for important projects like streets, police stations, fire stations, parks and other public infrastructure. Unfortunately, our archaic laws require cities to wait until interest rates go up to issue debt, costing the taxpayers more money.”

Zimmerman added, “Thankfully, Congress passed

a temporary preemption last year that has provided us with much needed relief, but it expires at the end of this year. Voters should understand if Issue No. 2 passes, this temporary relief will become permanent.

“However, if it fails, we will revert back to the old laws, and be unable to finance projects that benefit citizens all over the state.”

Issue No. 3 revises Amendment 82 of the Arkansas Constitution, commonly known as the super project incentive, which voters approved in 2004 by a margin of two-to-one.

- The changes would remove the requirements of 500 jobs and \$500 million in capital investment, while preserving the existing cap on the annual amount of money that can be dedicated for bond repayment. The high thresholds have effectively rendered the incentive useless.
- If passed, the Governor and Legislature would be empowered with greater flexibility to issue bonds on behalf of the state for economic development projects, which is important to Arkansas’s competitiveness.

“Today’s economic development climate is much different than in 2004 when Amendment 82 was adopted,” said Brad Lacy, President of the Arkansas Economic Developers, and CEO of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce and Conway Development Corporation. “We need the ability to compete for more and better paying jobs. When our state is on equal footing with Mississippi, Alabama, and other peer states, we win our fair share of projects and more. We just need the same tools to compete that those states enjoy.”

For more information on these proposed amendments, and how they can work together to attract more and better paying jobs and investment in Arkansas, please visit www.jobsforarkansas.com. Also, access our homepage at www.arml.org to obtain the League’s endorsement piece and recommended resolution.



New developments in the grant world

Get online to keep abreast of new grant opportunities this fall.

By Chad Gallagher

As the weather begins to break, our attention easily turns toward the approaching autumn leaves, the new school year and football season. For municipal officials, the fall is a good time to review your current grant efforts and consider how grants might help your city achieve some of its goals. Once a community has engaged in a thorough community planning process then the pursuit for funding ensues. While it cannot be counted on as the only source, when a grant prospect seems to fit your need or objective it can become a perfect way to fund your project. Here are few up new things up with grants this fall.

Check out www.grants.gov. The site is the federal government's web portal for submitting grant applications. It is important that every city and town register to use the site so if a grant comes along that you would like to apply for from a federal agency you already have a profile, username and password. Every city should designate an authorized organization representative (AOR) within your organization who is eligible to submit grants for your municipality. If you have not registered your city on the site allow four weeks to do so. Not allowing yourself this amount of time can cause you to miss the closing deadline for some grant opportunities.

Recently, the federal government added some new features to the site, including a new searchable database. This database gives you access to the 400 most common issues facing the applicants at any given time. In essence it is a do-it-yourself support site with a great deal of helpful information. The site also now has live web chat, which can connect you with a customer service representative. The rep cannot help or guide you with writing the grant application, but can give guidance on technical questions. The site has also added a nice animated tutorial section that walks applicants through using the site.

In other developing news in the grant world take note of the following: There are still many Recovery Act funding programs open. Of the \$787 billion of recovery funds, \$275 billion is allocated to contracts, grants and loans. To

search for recovery opportunities you can log on to The Arkansas Grant Book at www.arml.org or visit www.grants.gov/recoveract.

The 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants application period is now open. This program is operated by the Department of Homeland Security and administered through FEMA. This year Congress appropriated \$420 million to carry out the activities of the SAFER grant. The program's goal is to enhance local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards. The program guidance document can be found through the agency's web portal, www.firegrantsupport.com. At the site applicants can also view a tutorial. The funding cycle is now open and is worthy of exploration for adding additional staff to local fire departments.

EPA Brownfields Job Grant Cycle releases RFP on Sept. 10. This program provides remediation training in a variety of related fields and targets underemployed or unemployed areas. In addition to this program the EPA also operates a Brownfield assessment grant program, cleanup grant and a revolving loan fund. The cleanup program is a great tool for cities to utilize in cleaning up hazardous sites and can even be used for lead based paint abatement in public facilities. The program has many nuisances but is a tremendous tool that many shy away from because the EPA is typically only viewed as a regulatory agency. Arkansas is in EPA's Region 6. Our designated contact at the agency is Amber Perry. Amber has participated in our grant workshops and has worked very hard to help Arkansas municipalities with the program. She can be reached by email at perry.amber@epa.gov.

As the fall comes and you begin to think about next year's budget, don't forget to factor in potential grants. Contact us today to help you with this effort.



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.



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2011 Winter Conference

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

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

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.
Doubletree 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.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

1

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

OR

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Attn: 2011 Winter Conference
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

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	\$

• HOW ARE YOU PAYING?

Check Mail payment and form to: Arkansas Municipal League
2011 Winter Conference
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

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

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card): _____

Billing address (as it appears on statement): _____

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.

Peabody Hotel	Reservations _____	800-732-2639 or 501-906-4000
Capital Hotel	Reservations _____	877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474
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

Petition signatures of qualified electors count

Opinion: 2010-079
 Requestor: Bass, Hal—Chair, Clark Co. Election Commission

For an initiative or referendum that requires a petition under ACA 5, Sec. 1, should an election official count signatures of voters who were qualified electors at the time of signing the petition, but: Q1) died before the petition was submitted, Q2) moved to another location where the initiative or referendum would not be on the ballot before the petition was submitted, Q3) registered to vote in another location where the initiative or referendum would not be on the ballot before the petition was submitted, Q4) were convicted of a felony before the petition was submitted, Q5) were adjudged mentally incompetent before the petition was submitted, or Q6) whose voter registration was otherwise canceled before the petition was submitted? **RESPONSE:** Assuming, as you do in your request, that a signatory was indeed a “qualified elector” at the time he or she signed the petition, I believe the signature should be counted when the petition is duly submitted, irrespective of whether any of the contingencies set forth in your questions occurred following his or her signing of the petition.

Setting of bail or bond exclusively judicial

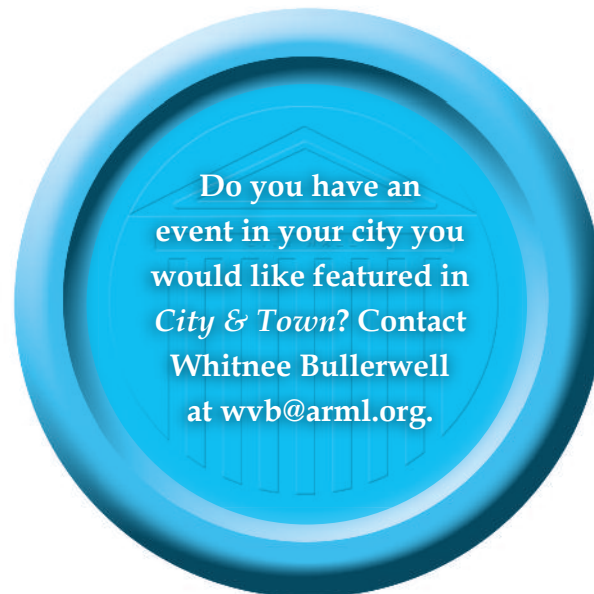
Opinion: 2010-086
 Requestor: Hall, Clark—State Representative

Does a municipal police chief, acting alone or through other employees of the municipal police department, have the authority to condition an arrestee’s release on depositing a sum in cash, depositing 10 percent of that sum, or obtaining the signature of a surety? **RESPONSE:** No. The setting of bail or bond is an exclusively judicial function, not a matter of executive discretion.

Legislation for nonpartisan county elections possible

Opinion: 2010-074
 Requestor: Baker, Gilbert—State Senator
 Is the Arkansas General Assembly empowered to enact legislation that would authorize the counties in this state to have the option to enact an ordinance providing for the nonpartisan (without political party affiliation) election of county officials similar to legislation that now gives the cities of this state such a choice (ACA 14-42-206)? **RESPONSE:** As a general proposition, I believe the General Assembly may enact legislation of this sort that would be applicable to counties. However, the actual provisions of the measure will be all-important in assessing its enforceability. This is particularly so because election laws can burden First Amendment rights. See opinion for discussion.

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



Fairs & Festivals

- Sept. 18, **BEEBE**, 17th Beebe Fall Fest, 501-882-6295, rcouch@broadbandbeebe.com, www.beebeark.org; **MARIANNA**, Autumn on the Square, 870-295-2469, chamcom@att.net, www.mariannaarkansas.org; **SHERWOOD**, 34th Sherwood Fest, 501-833-3790, amy@sherwoodparks.com
- Sept. 18-19, **PRAIRIE GROVE**, 24th Cane Hill Harvest Festival, 479-848-0137, canehillfestival@yahoo.com
- Sept. 24-25, **TRUMANN**, 28th Wild Duck Festival, 870-930-6918, tchamber@centurytel.net; www.trumannchamber.com
- Sept. 25, **BRYANT**, 25th Fall Fest of Bryant, 501-847-4702, bryantcofc@aristotle.net, www.bryant-ar.com; **MARKED TREE**, 34th Delta Cotton Pickin' Jubilee, 870-358-4998, sooziw@eritter.net; **NEWPORT**, 13th Depot Days Festival, 870-523-3618, director@newportarchamber.org, www.newportarchamber.org; **OPPELO**, Oppelo Homecoming, 501-354-2454, oppelocityhall@tcworks.net; **PLAINVIEW**, 4th Plainview Frontier Day, 479-272-4766, patbailey@arkwest.com
- Oct. 1-2, **ASH FLAT**, 16th Eagle Fest, 870-994-7324, afclerk@ashflat-ar.org; **BRINKLEY**, 27th Fall Fest, 870-734-2262, brinkleychamber@sbcglobal.net, www.brinkleychamber.com; **HAZEN**, 34th Grand Prairie Rice Festival, 870-255-3042, dhardke@mebanking.com; **POCAHONTAS**, Rock and Roll Highway Music Festival, 870-758-1875; **SHERIDAN**, 27th Timberfest, 870-942-3021, gcc@windstream.net, www.grantcountychamber.com
- Oct. 1-3, **LINCOLN**, 35th Arkansas Apple Festival, 479-466-7743, vvaruss@aol.com, www.arkansasapplefestival.org
- Oct. 2, **CALICO ROCK**, Calico Creek Autumn Fest, 870-297-4129, calicorock@centurytel.net, www.calicorock.us; **JACKSONVILLE**, 12th Wing Ding Festival, 501-982-1511, www.jacksonvillesoars.com; **KEO**, 7th Keo Fall Daze, 501-842-0100, keocityhall@centurytel.net, www.keoar.com; **LEPANTO**, 80th Terrapin Derby, 870-475-2415, fireman72354@yahoo.com; **MANILA**, 100th Anniversary of the Manila Depot, 870-561-3501, jacksond98@hotmail.com
- Oct. 8-9, **DEQUEEN**, 23rd Hoo Rah Days, 870-642-6642; **MCGEHEE**, 4th Owlfest, 870-222-4451, admin@mcgeheechamber.com, www.mcgeheechamber.com; **MONTICELLO**, 14th Rough & Ready Days Rhythm & Roots Festival, 870-367-6741, monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net; **MOUNT IDA**, 26th Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival, 870-867-2723, www.mtidachamber.com; **YELLVILLE**, 65th Turkey Trot, 870-449-4676, chamber@yellville.net, www.yellville.com
- Oct. 8-10, **VAN BUREN**, Fall Festival, 479-410-3026, www.vanburen.org
- Oct. 9, **BENTON**, 36th Old Fashioned Day, 501-315-0645, Sparson@cadc.com; **BOONEVILLE**, 9th October Daze, 479-675-2666, information1@booneville.com, www.booneville.com; **CABOT**, 32nd Cabotfest, 501-843-2136, angie@cabotcc.org, www.cabotcc.org; **CRAWFORDSVILLE**, 4th Hometown Crawfordsville Harvest Festival, 870-823-5822, susanmarotti@att.net; **CROSSETT**, 32nd Wiggins' Cabin Festival, 870-364-3648, tcoop@windstream.net, www.wigginscabinfestival.com; **FAIRFIELD BAY**, 36th Fall Fest, 501-884-3324, ffbcoc@artelco.com, www.ffbchamber.org; **PALESTINE**, 9th L'Anguille River Festival, 870-581-2166, mayorebdun@yahoo.com; **PRESCOTT**, Fall Festival, 870-887-2101; **RISON**, 20th Rison in the Fall Festival, 870-325-6381, cityofrison@tds.net
- Oct. 15-16, **LAKE VILLAGE**, Fall Fest, 870-265-5997, lvccd@director@sbcglobal.net, www.lakevillagechamber.com
- Oct. 16, **OZARK**, 38th Old Fashioned Square Gathering, 479-667-5337, mainstreetozark@centurytel.net, www.mainstreetozark.com



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Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2010 Elections

- SALINE COUNTY**, August 10
Failed. 1% sales tax for Fair/Prep
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)

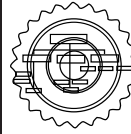
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
Jan.	\$34,674,109	\$35,895,776	\$35,450,558	\$38,497,274	\$70,124,667	\$74,393,050	\$60,271	\$92,482
Feb.	\$41,006,941	\$42,021,936	\$42,937,896	\$43,359,038	\$83,944,837	\$85,380,974	\$59,485	\$103,317
March	\$33,818,100	\$33,523,556	\$34,971,579	\$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
Total	\$294,551,671	\$292,542,386	\$302,976,157	\$309,822,812	\$597,527,828	\$602,365,198	\$500,674	\$681,309
Averages	\$36,818,959	\$36,567,798	\$37,872,020	\$38,727,852	\$74,690,979	\$75,295,650	\$62,584	\$85,164

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FIRE CHIEF — The City of Batesville is seeking a full time Fire Chief. Minimum requirements are; 21 years of age or older; possess a valid Arkansas driver's license without record of suspension or

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October 20, 2010 • 11:00 a.m.
League Headquarters

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Tuesday-Saturday November 30 – December 4, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Wednesday-Friday January 12-14, 2011 Little Rock	Saturday-Wednesday March 12-16 Washington, D.C.	Wednesday-Friday June 15-17, 2011 Hot Springs



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