

City&Town

JUNE 2011 VOL. 67, NO. 6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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24 Convention program grows
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After outgrowing their old space, city leaders in the growing community of Austin welcome the move into their new city hall.

Correction

Paragould's zero-depth entry pool at the city's aquatics park, pictured on page 28 in the May issue of *City & Town*, was designed and built by ETC Engineers & Architects, Inc. Any implication that the pool was built by Larkin Aquatics, who submitted the accompanying Parks & Recreation column, was unintentional.



City&Town

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ON THE COVER—June means Convention time for the Arkansas Municipal League, and we look forward to seeing you at the Hot Springs Convention Center June 15-17. With a full lineup of informative speakers, workshops covering a variety of municipal topics, and entertainment by The Platters, the 77th Convention is not one to miss. See page 12 for registration information and page 24 for the updated agenda. Read also inside about the annual meeting of the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus, Austin's new city hall, an update on the effort to bring solar wind power lighting to Arkansas's rural areas and more.—atm

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Cover Photo by Andrew Morgan

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Dear Friends:

Wow! Time flies when you're having fun! I think it's interesting how true this saying is. In fact, it's one of the defining aspects of fun. If time isn't going fast for you while you're doing something, then it's hard to imagine you're having fun doing it. It's the inverse of the saying "a watched pot never boils." Paying close attention to the waiting process makes time seem to slow to a standstill.

This saying is surely not to be taken literally, of course, but what does it mean for time to go fast? I'm very curious about this question because I have a feeling it will tell us something important about ourselves. We think of time as something neutral and external that passes without our intervention. We measure it by our clocks and by the sun rising and setting, but time is not the measurement. Really, time is measured most importantly in relation to our bodies and our experiences. The growing, aging and decaying of the body are the first and biggest indicators of time as a straight line, of a beginning and an end.

If someone's body grew and aged more quickly than normal, we wouldn't say time has sped up (although we might say that it has sped up for them). That person would not have had the full range of experiences that we associate with a normal lifespan. If I am right, then, we could be stuck with a circular definition of time. Experiences, such as watching a pot boil, are measured by their length of time, but time is measured by length of experience.

Well, the whole point of this discussion is to say my year as president is almost at its end. The experience and support from our membership has been absolutely tremendous. What this also means is it's time to register for the 77th Convention in Hot Springs. You will find an interesting and packed agenda in this issue.

One of the many goals of the National League of Cities this year is to encourage communities to take advantage of the prescription drug card plan. All your city has to do is sign up; you can do this at the Convention or online at www.nlc.org. For individuals without insurance for medication it will save between 20 and 30 percent of the cost. The program does not cost your community or the individual anything, but you have to enroll for your citizens to take advantage of the program.

This year has been a remarkable period for the Arkansas Municipal League. We had a great legislative session, we've had great response to our voluntary continuing education courses, and we have a lot of new faces eager to serve their communities. On top of all that, the National League of Cities has adopted our membership program as the model to follow for our sister state leagues across America. I am proud to be an Arkansan and a member of the Arkansas Municipal League.

Hot Springs has always been a great host for our Convention, and we appreciate the support and hospitality. See you in Hot Springs!

Murray Witcher

President, Arkansas Municipal League
Alderman, North Little Rock



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Caucus talks energy, Delta's future

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Community leaders from across the eight-state Mississippi Delta region discussed the economic future of the region with a large focus on domestic, renewable energy opportunities at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus, May 5-6 at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock.

As he has for the past several annual meetings of the organization, President Bill Clinton addressed the Caucus via telephone and shared his take on the major issues facing the region and its future, with a focus on energy and jobs.

"He did more for the Delta region than any president in American history," Caucus Director Lee Powell said of Clinton. Both the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the Delta Grassroots Caucus have their roots in the Clinton administration's Delta Regional Institute, a bipartisan initiative. "We couldn't have done it without both Democratic and Republican support," Powell said.

Despite gains made in the region, both during Clinton's time as Arkansas governor and as president, the challenges ahead are still formidable, the former president said.

"Even though we made real progress in the Delta during the time I served as president, we all know there are still terrible problems, and this horrible economic crisis has disproportionately affected you," Clinton said. He said he believes we're on the verge of coming out of the economic crisis "if the people in Washington don't make decisions that derail the recovery."

Clinton focused on what he considers the Delta's greatest opportunity to bring more jobs and businesses to the region.

"I am convinced that the problem of climate change is the opportunity of climate change," he said. It gives us an opportunity to change the way we produce and consume energy. "That really gives rural America and the Delta specifically a chance we have not had in a generation to become a source of economic opportunity, not a source of economic woe."

Clinton recommended a "relentless focus" on energy efficiency through retrofitting buildings, businesses and homes, exploring alternative energies from agricultural waste, municipal waste and other sources. We should try to "use everything that the land gives us and everything that people produce as a source of energy."

Investing in new and efficient energy programs produces far more jobs than building a traditional coal plant, and Arkansas is in a position to lead the country on this, Clinton said. He invited Delta leaders to contact

the Clinton Foundation and its climate change initiative to help move these ideas forward.



Offshore drilling will help us in the short term, U.S. Rep. Mike Ross said, but renewable energy must be part of the long-term strategy.

Economic recovery is still slow and painful, U.S. Rep. Mike Ross told the Caucus. Job losses have slowed and job gains, especially in the private sector, are a good sign as we work our way out of what he called our worst recession since World War II.

"We're headed in the right direction, but it's a fragile recover, and it's going to take time to work our way out of this," Ross said.

Rising gas prices are a big concern, Ross said, especially for people like many Arkansans who live paycheck-to-paycheck. He's written a bill, the "American Made Energy Act of 2011," which he says addresses gas and other energy concerns.

"My bill is pretty simple. It says this: that we should be drilling more here at home, off the coast—not using BP standards, by the way, but by using new 21st Century technologies that can allow us to recover the oil and natural gas we need and be good stewards of the environment all at the same time," Ross said.

The U.S. is sending \$300 billion overseas to buy energy, and too much of that money goes to "the terrorists that want to destroy us," Ross said. We should keep more of that at home and invest in new forms of energy like compressed natural gas, solar and wind, he said.

"My bill makes the single largest investment in the history of America in alternative and renewable forms of energy," Ross said. He added that his plan doesn't add to the deficit. It's paid for through lease and royalty payments from drilling off the coast, which he recommends we do in the short term while investing in renewable energy in the long term.

Gov. Mike Beebe also weighed in on renewable energy policy in Arkansas, which is tied to policy on the

federal level, he said. The state has done a good job recruiting clean energy industry in the state the last several years, particularly foreign wind energy manufacturers like LM Glasfiber, Nordex, Beckmann Volmer and Mitsubishi. A lack of a consistent federal policy on wind tax credits, however, is an inhibitor to growth of this industry in the state, Beebe said.

"It's hard if you just renew it from year-to-year or a couple of years at a time for the kind of investment that needs to be made, particularly some of the foreign investment that needs to be made, if they're not sure if the continuation of that public policy is going to be assured," Beebe said.



Arkansas has been successful in recruiting wind power manufacturers, Gov. Mike Beebe said, but that's just one part of our energy policy needs.

The state has passed specific tax exemptions for wind energy, Beebe said, and he credited that and heavy recruiting with the success we've had luring those businesses.

"We may not have all the wind farms that they've got in Oklahoma and West Texas and the plains, North Dakota and South Dakota, but we can make them all the parts and employ all the people and create thousands and thousands of jobs."

We need a whole array of energy sources to help free us from reliance on foreign energy, Beebe said.

"We have a terribly short memory in this country about our need to develop our own energy sources," Beebe said. Having an oil crisis always spurs action, he said, but we tend to forget the urgency when the crisis recedes and prices drop.

U.S. Rep. Rick Crawford echoed the sentiment that we can't continue to rely on foreign sources of energy. "That compromises not only our national security but our economic security," he said.

The Delta has a competitive advantage over many other regions when it comes to renewable energy, he said, and gave credit to the work of the Arkansas

Biosciences Institute, a consortium of research institutions including the University of Arkansas, the U of A Division of Agriculture, UAMS, Arkansas State University and the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

"We have a great opportunity in the Delta to lead the way."



The Delta needs to "do away with the defeatism" to take advantage of economic opportunity, U.S. Rep. Rick Crawford said.

Good Roads director gives I-69 update

Johnnie Bolin, director of the Arkansas Good Roads Transportation Council, provided the Caucus with an update on the progress of the development of Interstate 69, which was named one of six "Corridors of the Future" by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

I-69 begins at the U.S.-Canadian border in Michigan, extends south to Indianapolis, and is in various stages of development between there and the Mexican border near Laredo, Texas. In Arkansas, I-69 will cross the Mississippi River just north of Arkansas City and continue southwest, bypassing Monticello and running just north of El Dorado on its way to Shreveport, La.

The extension of the highway has faced many funding and other challenges since the beginning of its development in the early 1990s.

"It may take longer, but I'm not giving up," Bolin said, "and I hope you don't either."

Sufficient funds have been received to begin Phase 1 construction of the Monticello bypass. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. The remaining phases of construction are planned but not scheduled at this time, Bolin said.

"Hopefully, this time next year when we're back here, we can actually show you some pictures of work being done."

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June 15, 2011

Arkansas Municipal League
City Representatives

As Mayor of beautiful and historic Hot Springs, Arkansas, it's an honor to welcome the 77th Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League to our city! We are so pleased to have so many city leaders from across Arkansas visiting us.

AML staff members have surpassed themselves in putting together this year's excellent program, making sure it includes informative and timely information on programs and services affecting communities across the state. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know many of you during these activities.

While you are here, I encourage you to take the time to enjoy all Hot Springs has to offer. Take a drive out to Lake Hamilton or up West Mountain and enjoy the scenic beauty. Or you may want to walk downtown and through the National Park promenade. Don't forget to take advantage of the mineral baths and massages, the fine dining and unique shopping. I hope you'll take time to enjoy the many fun and family-oriented attractions throughout the downtown area, in addition to the Hot Springs Mountain Tower, Mid America Museum, Magic Springs & Crystal Falls Amusement Park and Garvan Woodland Gardens.

But most of all, thank you for making Hot Springs your 77th AML Convention destination. I know you'll be glad you did!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruth Carney".

Ruth Carney
Mayor



Spa City.



Splash City.



Bloom City.



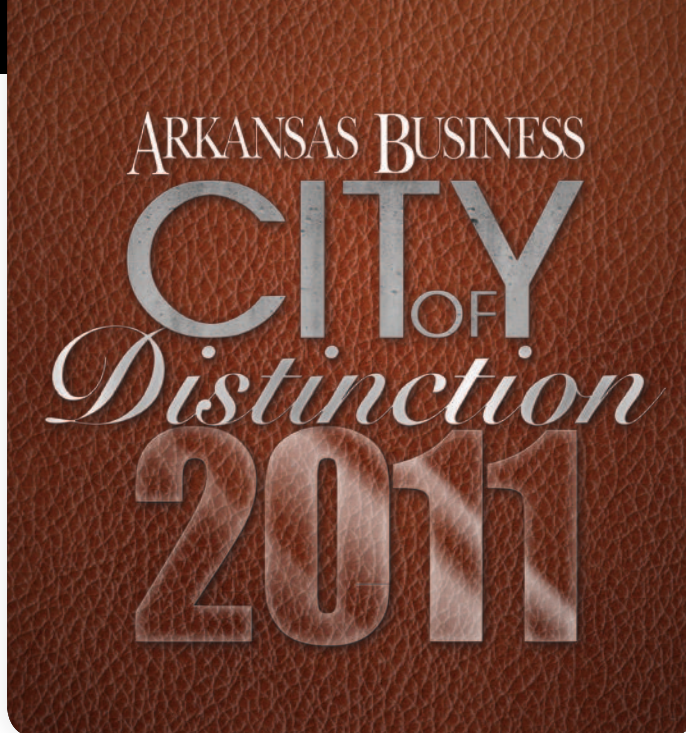
Thrill City.

Hot Springs has so many great things to do all year long, we don't care what you call us. Just call 1-888-SPA-CITY or visit hotsprings.org to plan your trip to America's First Resort.



America's First Resort

AML/11



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WE'RE LOOKING FOR INNOVATIVE CITIES...

The City of Distinction program is designed to honor outstanding initiatives in cities across the state. The award will serve as an opportunity to gain the appreciation of your residents and feel proud of outstanding contributions made to better your city.

The awards will recognize the successes of Arkansas cities as demonstrated by financial innovations, resourceful efficiencies, improved public services and overall enhanced public trust and support.

FIVE AWARD CATEGORIES FOR CITIES TO HIGHLIGHT UNIQUE PROGRAMS:

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
MAIN STREET, DOWNTOWN & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
QUALITY OF LIFE
CLEAN, GREEN AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES
WIRED FOR THE FUTURE

VISIT **ARKANSASBUSINESS.COM/CITY** TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT YOUR CITY'S NOMINATION FORM TODAY.

The competition is divided into two population categories to allow cities to compete with other cities of comparable size. The population categories are:

1) Cities less than 20,000 population 2) Cities over 20,000.

Application Information:

- Each city can submit one award application in each award category.
- Entries must describe programs or projects brought to conclusion or showing significant results between July 1, 2009 and March 31, 2011.
- An official entry application must be submitted for each project.
- Entry Forms must be received in the Arkansas Business office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, July 8, 2011 or be postmarked on or before that date.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



Sponsoring Partner



It's Convention time again.

June 15-17—Hot Springs, Ark.

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Exhibitors, contact the League immediately
to reserve space for your display.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at 501-978-6105

Cost for the exhibit space is \$500.



77th CONVENTION

Hot Springs Convention Center

June 15-17, 2011

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Wednesday, June 1, 2011, to qualify for advance registration.

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 1, 2011 , 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 the **2009-'10 Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials** and the **2011 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 1, 2011.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 1, 2011**.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

~~SOLD OUT~~ EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL (headquarters hotel)

~~Single \$139 Double \$149 Check-in 3 p.m.~~

~~SOLD OUT~~ AUSTIN HOTEL

~~Single/Double \$82 Check-in 3 p.m.~~

ARLINGTON HOTEL

Single \$85 Double \$95 Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 1, 2011**.
- Rooms in Hot Springs are subject to a 13 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Attn: 77th Convention
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

1

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

OR

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)

☐ Advance Registration ☐ Regular Registration ☐ Spouse/Guest ☐ Child ☐ Other Registrants Total
\$150 \$175 \$75 \$75 \$200 \$

• HOW ARE YOU PAYING?

☐ **Check** Mail payment and form to:
Arkansas Municipal League
77th Convention
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:

Arlington Hotel Reservations _____ 800-643-1502 or 501-609-2533

~~**Austin Hotel** Reservations _____ 877-623-6697~~

~~**Embassy Suites Hotel** Reservations _____ 501-321-4430 Emily Parker, Lead Reservationist~~

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:

Arlington Hotel Accounting _____ 800-643-1502 or 501-609-2533

~~**Austin Hotel** Accounting _____ 800-844-7275~~

~~**Embassy Suites Hotel** Accounting _____ 501-321-4413 Melody Fruen~~

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 77th Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

To guarantee your firm's exhibit area, contact the League immediately to reserve space for your display. Your name will be added to the list of exhibitors, and we will reserve a space for your exhibit when you arrive.

The cost this year for exhibit space is \$500. We cannot guarantee space for companies that do not register before June 1.

Call Whitnee Bullerwell at 501-978-6105, or write to Arkansas Municipal League, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.

Continuing Legal Education Offered at League Convention

Twelve (12) hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) will be available for city attorneys who attend the 77th Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 15-17, at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The Arkansas City Attorney's Association (ACAA) sponsors the CLE.

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

Tentative CLE topics offered June 16 and 17 include legislative updates, Arkansas case law update, water and fire code update, and an overview of some frequently asked questions. The program will also include two (2) hours of ethics.

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



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Rural solar power demo coming to Convention

By Sherman Banks

In articles in the January and March issues of *City & Town*, I wrote about the unfortunate lack of electrical lighting in many rural areas. Since the advent of electrical lighting, electrical wiring infrastructure has been available throughout cities, towns and along highways, but in many rural areas, electrical wiring has been and remains virtually non-existent.

In an effort to seek solutions to the problem, in February Star City Mayor Gene Yarbrough and I went to Italy to meet with several industry representatives to discuss "wind solar power." After many meetings, we selected Montaggio Solar Electric Company of Trapani in Sicily as the company we would work with to bring lighting to rural areas of our state.

Spreading the word

Montaggio Electric sent a sample lighting system to Arkansas in May, and after I transported the system to Star City, Mayor Yarbrough and I discussed the best way to market the system to the rural and Delta areas. After several hours of discussion, Mayor Yarbrough decided on the following initial marketing actions:

1. Create a portable demonstration stand for the solar lighting system for the purpose of transporting the system to rural areas for demonstration;
2. Display the solar lighting system at the Arkansas Municipal League Annual Convention, June 15-17 in Hot Springs; and

3. Host private and public receptions in various locations throughout the region in order to demonstrate the solar lighting system.

The next steps involve Mayor Yarbrough arranging for a representative of Montaggio Solar Electric in Italy to come to Arkansas to aid in the demonstration of the solar lighting system.

Looking forward: New employment opportunities

Part of Mayor Yarbrough's hope for the project involves the creation of new jobs in the region, and he is working toward the opening of a distribution center for the system. Once a distribution center has been established, a Montaggio Solar Electric representative will come to instruct local workers on how to assemble and maintain the wind solar power systems.

If you would like information on how to bring solar lighting to your area, stop by the exhibit hall during the League's June Convention, or contact Mayor Yarbrough at Star City Hall, 870-628-4166, to request a demonstration in your area.



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

Charleston mayor addresses Argenta group

Charleston, S.C., Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. addressed the Argenta Downtown Council at the group's fourth annual luncheon May 11 in downtown North Little Rock. Mayor Riley is considered one of the most visionary and effective local government leaders in the country and has been mayor of the South Carolina city of 120,000 since 1975, an unprecedented nine terms in that office. His accomplishments in office include a commitment to progress and racial harmony, a decrease in crime, revitalization of the city's historic downtown, and the city's growth in size and population.

Mayor Riley addressed the Argenta Downtown Council on issues of urban design and livability. The Council was founded in 2007 to provide an enhanced safe, clean, green environment, promote sustainability and provide marketing and advertising for members and properties in the Argenta Arts District and downtown North Little Rock. For more information on the Argenta Downtown Council, call 501-993-1234 or visit www.argentaadc.org.



Riley

Be a resourceful tapper of resources

From neighboring communities, to the local business community, to your own city's staff, community-building resources are all around you.

By Chad Gallagher

When it comes to developing a successful grant application, many tips are worth noting. The good news is that anyone can learn to write a successful application. The effort is part science and part art, and as in most things in life, the victor is typically well prepared, thorough, executes well and doesn't give up easily. Persistence is one of the most beneficial qualities of a successful grant writer. It is amazing what sheer determination can make happen. The happy marriage of these various qualities will lead to successful grant writing, and I assure you that once success is yours on one project you will forever be in pursuit of the next.

One of the things I often notice in grant-writing efforts and in community development in general is the under-utilization of available resources. I've been guilty of this myself. Available resources are too often untapped. Sometimes it's by accident, sometimes it's ignorance and sometimes it's intentional, but it is never helpful. Accessing resources is a key factor in community development.

When working on a grant application or tackling any community development project, don't forget some key resources that can provide you help and guidance. Be sure to tap into these:

- Other communities—Don't feel pressured to reinvent the wheel. So many of your peers in other cities and towns have faced similar challenges. Utilize the League's list-serv or call us for help in finding out who else around the state has faced what you are facing. Adopting their best practices—or avoiding their costly mistakes—is a great result of a resource.
- Other grant applications—If imitation is the highest form of flattery then start flattering. When applying for funding with a government agency or the private sector, it pays to review previous successful applications. Pay attention to common themes in the successful applications. Note the applicant's style and any similarities. Let it become a role model for your request.
- Local business community—You might be surprised how resourceful your local business

community can be. Anyone who can start a business, operate and survive in this challenging economy might be able to assist in your community development efforts. Local business leaders can offer great ideas, access to their business network and relationships, technical support on writing an application, and solutions to your challenges.

- Elected officials and staff—Most elected officials have staff members who are skilled, knowledgeable and willing to help municipal leaders with any undertaking. In fairness, you cannot expect the staff to work miracles. They don't have buckets of money under the desk, but they can help you cut red tape, get you in touch with the right person and give you good guidance on your efforts. Arkansans are fortunate to have great staff members working for our elected officials across the aisle and at both the federal and state levels.
- The Arkansas Municipal League—Our League is hailed across the nation as the best among its counterparts in other states. The League has developed a wide variety of services designed to provide practical assistance to its members. This includes help with legal issues, planning and zoning, grant funding and community development and much more. The League and its services are available to help you be successful as a municipal official. It starts with attending the annual conferences.

When taking on your community's biggest challenges or applying for the next grant opportunity, don't forget to look around. Your resources aren't just the articles and studies you reference in your application. They are all around you. They say no man is an island. This is certainly true when it comes to building a successful community. For more ideas on accessing these resources email me or give me a call today.



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of DeQueen. Contact him in DeQueen at 870-642-8937, 501-246-8842 in Little Rock, or e-mail chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com.

New Entergy program encourages efficiency

The CitySmart Program is an energy efficiency program designed to provide assistance and financial incentives to local public entities for the installation of energy efficiency measures that reduce peak demand loads in their facilities.

Who is eligible?

The CitySmart program is offered to all Entergy Arkansas local public entity customers that receive retail electric service.

What are the program benefits?

Program benefits include providing program partners with access to resources such as energy benchmarking, energy master planning assistance, technical assistance, communications support and financial incentives. The program helps senior managers and facility managers operate their buildings more efficiently by understanding the technical and financial benefits of investing in energy efficiency and by developing a plan to implement energy efficiency improvement projects.

What energy efficiency measures are eligible for incentives?

4. LED traffic signals
5. Energy efficient lighting
6. Premium efficiency motors
7. High-efficiency heating and cooling equipment
8. Electric chillers

What does the program cost?

Customers pay nothing to join or participate in the program. Entergy Arkansas provides support and

incentives for the program. The financial investment that any participant makes is for the energy efficiency measures they install in their own facilities.

How can customers participate in the program?

To join CitySmart, the local public entity executes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU describes program commitments on the part of the program and the CitySmart partner. Program staff will contact customers who submit the MOU to provide the customer with details on program participation, benefits and requirements and to begin the program process. The program funding is limited so customers must adhere to the program dates and rules for eligibility in order to participate.

Where can customers get more information?

To learn more about CitySmart, please contact your local Entergy Arkansas customer service representative, call Walter Wills at 1-877-212-2420, or email CitySmartEAI@clearesult.com.



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Competition winners perform across state

By Sherman Banks

When a city considers a sister city relationship, the first thought is economic development; however, cultural and educational exchanges are often the key to opening the door for compatibility that eventually leads to economic development. The IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition is one of those opportunities that Sister Cities International offers for community enrichment.

Each year this worldwide music competition takes place at the end of June and the first part of July in the city of Ragusa/IBLA, Sicily, Italy. Over 250 pianists, singers, composers and instrumentalists in classical, jazz and blues travel from the four corners of the world to compete in the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition. The IBLA International Jury is comprised of representatives from the most important music conservatories, colleges and universities, and music supporters worldwide.

In the early spring of each year, winners of the previous year perform at prestigious venues around the world like New York City's Carnegie Hall. Since Ragusa is a

sister city with Little Rock, we in Arkansas also have the opportunity to experience the world-class talents of these musicians.

World-class performances in Arkansas

Thanks to the IBLA Foundation, Arkansas community leaders, the Italian club, and local music enthusiasts, IBLA winners for more than a decade have each year performed public concerts and participated in community outreach programs in Arkansas. The programs allow IBLA winners to perform for and interact with local students and families by sharing their professional and artistic talents. This year Arkansas hosted the 2010 winners of the prestigious competition.

For the past 11 years the winners have performed at Gibbs Magnet Elementary School and Parkview High School in Little Rock, and in free public performances in the cities of Little Rock and Jacksonville.

Three years ago we expanded the opportunity to any venue in Arkansas who would like to have their students



After a recent performance in Lake Village, the community had the opportunity to meet IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition winners at a post-concert reception. From left, pianist Suzanna Simurdova, Czech Republic; pianist Maria Mannikko, Finland; IBLA Vice President and League partner Sherman Banks; pianist Alexander Panfilov, Russia; 2002 IBLA winner, jazz/blues pianist Dr. Alan Storeygard of Arkansas; cellist Christopher Croisé, Switzerland; accordionist Rafal Luc, Poland; and Lake Village Mayor JoAnne Bush.

and community exposed to world-class performers in classical, jazz, and blues music.

Mayor Gene Yarbrough invited the performers for a third year to Star City. The performers held two concerts, one at Star City High School with over 500 in attendance and another to the elementary and middle school with over 1,000 students and faculty in attendance.

For the second year, Mayor JoAnne Bush of Lake Village arranged a performance for the Lake Village School District and an evening performance for the local community. Mayor Bush also arranged a reception at the art museum for the community to meet and socialize with performers after the evening performance.

This year's performers came from Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Finland and the Czech Republic. The youngest performer this year was a 17-year-old cellist who has been playing since he was three years of age. Students at each performance asked why he chose the cello. He responded, "I used to play the violin, but I wanted to sit down, so I switched to the cello."

Host a concert in your community

Culture and education can become the foundation for establishing trust that can eventually lead to international economic development and a Sister Cities relationship with a foreign city. If you would like the opportunity for your community and local school district to hear and interact with world-class entertainers, please contact me at 501 376-8193, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.



If you would like the opportunity for your community to explore and establish a Sister City program, please email me at sbanks@aristotle.net; write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216; or call 501-376-8193.

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Contact Cathy Moran at
501-374-3484, Ext. 214.

Age doesn't mean obsolescence

While growing older is inevitable, becoming obsolete is not, and a healthy diet and regular exercise can help keep you active longer.

By David Baxter, League staff

One of the facts of life is that as we celebrate another birthday, another year passes us by. For many of us, the accumulation of life experiences is an indispensable asset associated with growing older. For others, however, aging can foster a marked decline in physical health. In fact, recent studies show that in the United States, adults aged 65 and over who are living with certain chronic conditions have increased in recent years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes have increased dramatically since the 1960s, and it is not surprising to find that these increases mirror the rising obesity rates seen in the United States. (Rettner, 2010). With rising obesity rates and health declining in many mature Arkansans, is there anything that can be done to reverse these patterns?

Perhaps the most important step that you can take in reducing obesity and increasing health begins by changing your personal beliefs toward disease and disability and their relation with growing older. Margaret Moore, a public health advisor with the CDC's Healthy Aging Program, says that the belief that a person in their 60s or 70s has no control over their health and is a victim of old age is really just an old myth. Modern, extensive research has shown that maturing adults can take action now to reduce the negative effects of growing older by implementing various principles into their daily life.

Dr. Laura DeFina, the medical director at The Cooper Aerobic Institute, points out various components that have proven successful in helping mature adults reduce disease and disability associated with obesity and old age. DeFina advises mature adults to see a physician regularly for routine and preventative check-ups. This allows the doctor to help identify any cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure or diabetes. This is extremely important because getting control of cardiovascular risk factors leads to fewer heart attacks and strokes, which in turn leads to a longer and higher quality of life. Along with seeking the advice of a physician, DeFina also suggests that mature adults can take charge of their own health by means of exercise and improved eating habits.

As a personal trainer, I have seen first-hand what proper, consistent exercise and improved eating habits

can do for people of all ages. The power of these two components lies in the fact that they are well within your reach and control. It is something that you can take charge of now. The benefits of 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise per day and twice-weekly strength training are enormous. Exercises like walking, yard work, riding a bike and circuit weight training have a proven track record in helping decrease obesity, building muscle, increasing immune function and warding off many lifestyle related disabilities and diseases.

Dr. DeFina explains that exercise also keeps seniors active, maintains muscle bulk, helps prevent falls, and has been shown to decrease memory loss. She also points out that while many mature adults tend to "throw care to the wind and eat whatever," aging adults do not need to become complacent in their eating habits.

It is important for mature adults to choose healthier food options and control their caloric intake. This type of eating not only helps to normalize body weight and decrease the chances of becoming obese, but a balanced diet consisting of low fat, low sodium and adequate protein and carbohydrates is important in preventing and treating high blood pressure, diabetes and other medical conditions. It is advisable that mature adults seeking to gain the benefits of exercise and diet modification first seek the guidance of a physician and/or nutritionist prior to beginning any exercise or diet program.

While growing older is a necessary part of a well-lived life, gone is the belief that once a person reaches a certain age they become obsolete and have no control over their health. Experts agree that regular exercise, improved eating and regular doctor visits are all proactive approaches that you can use to help take charge of your own health and well-being. As Dr. Kenneth Cooper says, "We do not stop exercising because we grow old—we grow old because we stop exercising." And he should know. He celebrated his 80th birthday this year by skiing in Colorado.



David Baxter is the League Health and Safety Coordinator. Contact David at 501-374-3484 Ext. 110, or email dbaxter@arml.org.

ADVERTISEMENT

The *n*Court SPOTLIGHT West Memphis District Court

The Challenge

Located directly across the Mississippi River from Memphis, TN and with a population of 28,000, West Memphis, AR is a heavily traveled area by business people and tourists alike. The West Memphis District Court processes an average of 2,000 traffic tickets each month, posing an enormous strain on court resources and staff.

As part of the court's payment options, citizens were able to pay their citations by phone or in person using their credit card. However, the staff became overwhelmed by the time-consuming task of processing each payment manually. In the meantime, residents had been inquiring about paying their citations over the internet.

The Solution

In January of 2011, West Memphis deployed nCourt's traffic payment system to help ease their high traffic ticket volume and

increase collections, while also offering a fast, and convenient payment option to their citizens and those in the surrounding areas. As soon as they signed on to the nCourt payment system, West Memphis Court began receiving online payments instantly.

"We're lovin' it! nCourt has taken a huge burden off of us, so our staff is able to be more effective and productive in other critical areas. The amount of tickets was overwhelming and people have been asking for online payment options. nCourt was the perfect solution."

- Gina Worth, Bookkeeper
West Memphis Court

nCourt also provided the court-house with a computer terminal for walk-in payments, which residents began using upon installation.

How It Works

nCourt's internet and telephone credit card payment solution

reduces court call volume and foot traffic, easing staff workload while increasing collections by providing citation holders with a one-stop payment option. At no charge to the West

The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to West Memphis District Court' page. It includes a navigation bar with links: Home, Our Company, Services, News, Testimonials, and Contact Us. Below the header is a form for entering citation information: First Name, Last Name, Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy), Phone Number, Address, Apt Number, City, State (dropdown menu), and Zip. There are also fields for Citation Number, Court Date, and Fine Amount. A 'Pay Now' button is visible at the bottom of the form.

Memphis District Courthouse, nCourt developed a customized website specifically for their needs. Citation holders can now visit www.westmemphistix.com and complete a secure transaction where the court is notified of payment immediately. nCourt also offers a toll-free customer service support line in both English and Spanish. nCourt's payment service includes a modest convenience fee that is paid by the citation holder, making nCourt's services available to courts for free. Call nCourt at (866) 993-6019, ext. 1811 or visit www.ncourt.com.

fast facts

- After using nCourt, West Memphis District Court collected **\$22,822** within their first month.
- The nCourt solution has already eased the West Memphis Court's docket of over **2,000** traffic citations per month.

Want To Reduce Call Volume and Foot Traffic?

"With nCourt, we don't get those 'crazy' calls anymore!"

- Tonya Dutton, Court Clerk

- Offer credit card options for paying traffic citations, utility bills, probation payments, tax payments, electronic filing, bail bonds, tag renewals, city payments, memberships and more!
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Cities inspire devotion

Arkansas's urban areas come in all shapes and sizes, and despite the many challenges, we fight for our cities because we love them.

By Jim von Tungeln

Why do so many of us love cities? My affair began in earnest upon graduating from college and moving to San Francisco, supposedly to wait for the draft board to find me. Truth be known, it was in hopes of running into an old girlfriend. I can't even recall her face now, but I still remember the sights, sounds, and even the smell of that great place as it existed then. I have wanted to live in a city since.

A majority of Americans feel the same if you include smaller cities and towns in the mix. According to census figures, 80 percent or more of Americans live in areas classified as "urban." In fact, about one out of every 10 people in the United States lives in either Los Angeles or New York, the nation's two most populous metro areas. Even in our agriculturally oriented state, the urban population has exceeded the rural since the 1970s.

We encounter so many of the essential experiences of life while in cities that one can't imagine a world without them. They provide, for example, practically all of our medical care, along with other goods and services necessary in the modern world. They serve as the site of employment for most of us. They also house governmental centers where the work of the public sector originates and our vital records repose.

Those who include a college degree in their experience certainly have the memory of a city associated with that achievement. Usually, this includes secondary education as well.

How many of us met our future spouse in a city? Or found our first job? Chances are we purchased our first home in some city or town and treasure that memory. Almost without exception today's children are born in cities. While we must admit that not all memories associated with cities have been pleasant, it would be hard to argue that they haven't played an integral part in our lives.

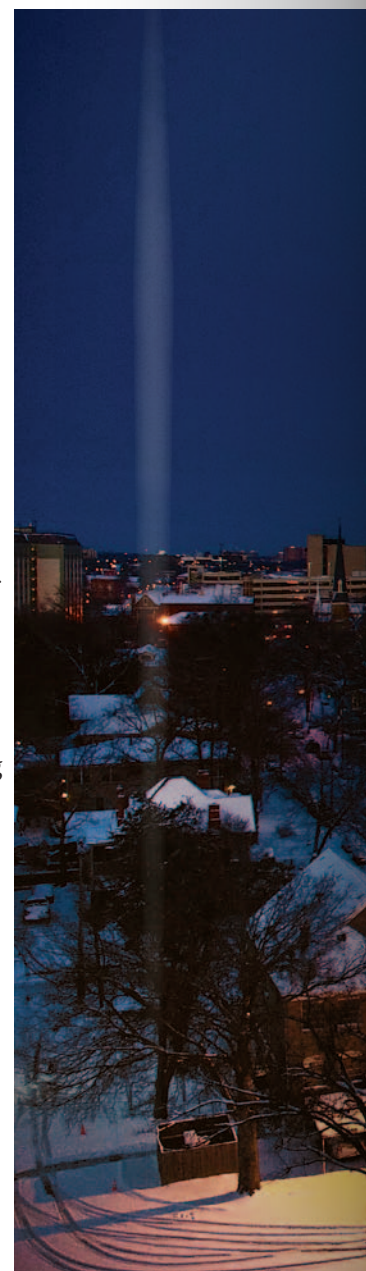
As important as they are, cities haven't always captured our affections. Our country's third president, Thomas Jefferson, found them particularly distressing. He commented once, "I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe."

Early American history seemed to prove him right. For many residents, American cities of the 18th and early 19th centuries were breeding places for disease and other urban ills. They were crowded, dirty, noisy places whose residents mostly dreamed of leaving. One photograph from New York City in the latter half of the 1800s depicts an alley between two tenements in which a well providing drinking water existed a few feet from a privy. Life there provided no milestone in reaching the American dream.

Visitors to Chicago's Columbian Exposition in 1893, however, came away with a different vision. They witnessed a "Great White Way" of monumental buildings and beautiful landscaping that promised a magnificent urban living experience. The result was a conscious effort to make our cities more livable and they have been improving ever since. To the elected officials, municipal workers, and the volunteers of various city boards and commissions, it sometimes seems this is a matter of "one step forward and two steps back," but they keep at it. And despite the difficulty of meeting increased demands for urban services with fewer resources, they make our communities better, one day at a time.

Please don't think I seek to disparage other styles of living. Raised in the country, I still love the smell of spring plowing in the Arkansas Delta. My family's roots in the rural backwoods of this state extend back to the 1830s. But as a young boy, all I ever wanted was a high-rise apartment like where Ricky and Lucy Ricardo lived.

There is just something about the way a big city "hums" late at night. It is a feeling like no other. I still have goose bumps remembering the late-night sounds of foghorns sounding from ships sailing through the





Cities reflect the changing moods and seasons of our life, as this winter view from the author's "Ricky and Lucy pad" illustrates.

Golden Gate. Smaller cities and towns, on the other hand, provide a sense of community and fellowship that is comforting to many of us. All are valid.

Cynics will point to the traffic, noise, and congestion associated with cities. They exist. But it is this “grit” that makes the urban experience so electric and fulfilling to urbanites. It is also the lack of this grit and history that makes it difficult, if not impossible, to replicate real urbanism in a new development.

Perhaps Shakespeare said it best when he asked, “What is the city but the people?” This month, representatives of these people from all over our state will meet to share their experiences and learn from one another. They are the members of the Arkansas Municipal League. The populations of their cities and towns comprise

67.2 percent of the folks in our state. These representatives face unprecedented challenges and opportunities. In the current political climate, some urban experts predict that pressures on federal and state governments will create more emphasis on cities. This will provide for some interesting times.

We should all look forward to being a part of it.



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

77th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

JUNE 15 - 17, 2011

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS,
TREASURERS ASSOCIATIONRooms 104-105

2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

REGISTRATIONGrand Lobby

2:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.

MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/
RENEW ACQUAINTANCESHalls B-D

Use this time to meet the exhibitors and see what products and services they have that could benefit your city. Popcorn and cool beverages will be served throughout the afternoon. Also, take the time to renew acquaintances with fellow municipal officials while relaxing in the Exhibit Hall.

2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SUGGESTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY LEAD Hall A
(Certification Hours)

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

3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

INTERIM JOINT CITY, COUNTY,
LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEERooms 102-103
The Interim Committee welcomes all city officials to attend this committee meeting.

5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Hall A
Each municipality has a designated representative who is a member of the Resolutions Committee.
Presiding: Mayor Frank Fogleman, Marion
First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League

7:00 P.M.

OPENING NIGHT BANQUETHorner Hall Ballroom
Welcome to the 77th Annual Convention Opening Night Banquet. Enjoy a delicious meal and visit with fellow delegates. After the conclusion of the banquet, we will recognize various individuals who have made significant contributions to the League this past year, including members of the Arkansas General Assembly.

8:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S DESSERT RECEPTIONHalls B-D
After the opening night banquet, stroll over to the Exhibit Hall and enjoy delicious desserts and see if you win a door prize.
Sponsored by: Entergy

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011

6:30 A.M. to 7:00 A.M.

PRE-BREAKFAST EXERCISE WALK/JOGEmbassy Suites Lobby
Meet in the Lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

7:15 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

REGISTRATIONGrand Lobby

7:30 A.M. to 4:15 P.M.

EXHIBITS OPENHalls B-D

7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFETHalls B-D
Country-style breakfast buffet will be served, courtesy of our Host City of Hot Springs.

8:00 A.M. to NOON

CITY ATTORNEYSRooms 104-105
City attorneys will receive 12 hours of CLE credit for participating in two days of meetings located in Rooms 104-105 of the Hot Springs Convention Center.

9:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.

OPENING GENERAL SESSIONHorner Hall Ballroom
The 77th Annual Convention begins with the posting of the colors by the Hot Springs Police Department and the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a Host City Welcome from Mayor Ruth Carney of Hot Springs. We are honored to have Governor Mike Beebe and NLC President James Mitchell address our Opening General Session.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Color Guard by: Hot Springs Police Department
Singing the National Anthem: Ken Goodman, Hot Springs
Host City Welcome Address: Mayor Ruth Carney, Hot Springs
Presiding: Alderman Murry Witcher, North Little Rock
President, Arkansas Municipal League
Speakers: Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor
State of Arkansas
Alderman James Mitchell of Charlotte, North Carolina
President, National League of Cities

10:15 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

BREAKHalls B-D

10:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UPHorner Hall Ballroom
The past legislative session concluded with the passage of several important laws affecting municipalities. Executive Director Don Zimmerman explains. Bring your Acts Book.
Presiding: Mayor Frank Fogleman, Marion
First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League
Speaker: Don Zimmerman, Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

11:15 A.M.

The Exhibit Hall will close until lunch.

12:00 Noon to 1:15 P.M.

LUNCHEON BUFFETHalls B-D

1:00 P.M. to 5:15 P.M.

CITY ATTORNEYSRooms 104-105

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:15 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

1. MUNICIPAL REDISTRICTING AND THE NEW ELECTION LAWSRoom 208

Now that the results of the 2010 Census are in, municipalities may need to consider ward redistricting. How do you go about getting started? Those who understand will explain.

Presiding: Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock

Speakers: Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director
Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning

A.J. Kelly, Deputy Director
Office of Secretary of State

Kelly Boyd, Director of Governmental Affairs
Office of Secretary of State

2. PUBLIC PENSION PROGRAMS: LOPFI, APERS, PRBRoom 207

The legislative session may have brought about new laws that affect the municipal pension systems. This workshop attempts to explain what happened.

Presiding: Mayor Mike Gaskill, Paragould

Speakers: Gail Stone, Executive Director
Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System

David Clark, Executive Director, LOPFI and PRB

3. THE BENEFITS OF THE SISTER CITY PROGRAM AND DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL CITIESRooms 203-204

There are many advantages to being a sister city. Listen to the experiences of cities that have developed wonderful relations with other cities across the globe.

Presiding: Mayor Gene Yarbrough, Star City

Speakers: Sherman Banks, Sister Cities International Consultant
Arkansas Municipal League

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

Terry Payne, Public Information Director, Hot Springs

4. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ACT 833 UPDATERooms 201-202

This past year has brought us ice storms, tornados and flooding. What can you do to be prepared? Did the Legislature modify Act 833 on how revenue is distributed? Speakers from State Government explain.

Presiding: Mayor Bruce Powell, Bull Shoals

Speakers: David Maxwell, Director
Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Richard Drilling, Fiscal Accounting Manager
Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

5. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS: MANAGING YOUR STREETS AND SANITATION DEPARTMENTS.....Room 205

Winter freezing and spring flooding has taken its toll on our city streets. Are there maintenance steps we can take? How about your solid waste pick up program? Are you getting maximum results? Speakers explain.

Presiding: Mayor Jack May, McGehee

Speakers: Laura Carter, Technology Transfer Manager
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department

Joseph Heflin, Safety Engineer
Federal Highway Administration

Mayor Alan Maxwell, Monticello

6. LAND USE AUTHORITY AND ANNEXATION.....Rooms 102-103

This last legislative session brought a few changes to existing planning and zoning laws. Laws are now in place that allow changes in the way planning and zoning commissions can be created.

Presiding: Mayor Don Sikes, Maynard

Speakers: Jim von Tungeln, AICP, Planning/Zoning Consultant
Arkansas Municipal League

James Walden, AICP, President, Urban Planning

7. THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR RISKS.....Room 209

Accidents in the workplace cost you money and productivity. There are things you can do to reduce your risks. Are your employees having too many vehicle accidents? Perhaps the AML driving program can reduce your risks of automobile accidents. AML staff explain.

Presiding: Alderman Rose Marie Wilkinson, Haskell

Speakers: Neil Foreman, Loss Control Specialist
Arkansas Municipal League

David Baxter, Health and Safety Coordinator
Arkansas Municipal League

2:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.

BREAKHalls B-D

Soft drinks and coffee available in Exhibit Hall.

2:45 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

1. PREPARING FOR A LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND HELPFUL HINTS OF PREPARING YOUR BUDGETRoom 207

With the cooperation of the state Legislative Audit staff, new laws are in place to assist municipalities with budgeting and accounting. This workshop is intended to provide you with information to prepare you for a legislative audit and inform you of important IRS regulations as well as to suggest helpful hints in preparing your budget.

Presiding: Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville

Speakers: June Barron, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit

Pattie Weed, CPA, Thomas and Thomas

Jan Germany, Specialist, Internal Revenue Service

2. MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.....Room 208

Municipalities continue to struggle with attracting and retaining jobs. Are there steps you can take to enhance your chances of becoming a municipality that is job friendly? There are steps you can take to become sustainable, but will that assist in attracting jobs and new citizens to your city? The speakers explain.

Presiding: Mayor Carl Redus, Pine Bluff

Speakers: Mark Goodman, Director, Center for Economic
Development Education, Institute for Economic
Advancement – UALR

Dave Roberts, Vice President and Director of Planning
Crafton Tull

3. MUNICIPALITIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA:
WHAT'S HAPPENINGRoom 205

Is it time for municipalities to embrace social media and use it to accomplish their diverse and important goals much as the private sector is already doing? Attend this session and find out what some municipalities are doing to implement social media strategies.

Presiding: Mayor Chris Claybaker, Camden

Speakers: Whitnee Bullerwell, Communications Director
Arkansas Municipal League

Jill Ponder, Energy Services Coordinator
North Little Rock Electric

Lindsley Smith, Communications Director
Fayetteville

Meg Matthews, Public Relations Manager
Little Rock

4. AVOIDING LAWSUITSRoom 209

Municipalities are being sued in record numbers. What steps can you take to avoid lawsuits? The AML legal staff share their ideas and suggestions.

Presiding: Mayor Dave Osmon, Mountain Home

Speakers: Arkansas Municipal League Staff Attorneys

5. EMBRACING OUR NEW IMMIGRANT
POPULATION.....Rooms 203-204

Our cities continue to attract immigrants. This poses unique challenges. Listen as city officials explain what they are doing to embrace the new immigrant population in their municipalities.

Presiding: Alderman Joe Dan Yee, Lake Village

Speakers: City Manager Catherine Cook, Hope
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

6. HEALTH AND WELLNESS: WHY IT MATTERSRooms 102-103

Healthy employees and a healthy municipality mean lower insurance premiums, better employee morale and can serve as an attraction for economic development. The speakers explain.

Presiding: Alderman Maurice Taylor, North Little Rock

Speakers: Joy Rockenbach, Co-Chair
Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention

Michelle Justus, Director
Arkansas Obesity Institute

Leon T. Andrews, Jr., Program Director
NLC Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

7. UNDERSTANDING THE 2010 CENSUS DATA.....Rooms 201-202

The 2010 Census is full of useful information that you need to understand. How you can benefit from this information is what the speakers will share.

Presiding: Mayor Bob McCaslin, Bentonville

Speakers: Phyllis Poché, Director, Census State Data Center

Alison Wiley, Demographic Research
Census State Data Center

Michael Dayton, Partnership Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau

4:00 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.

BREAKHalls B-D

Soft drinks and coffee available in Exhibit Hall.

4:15 P.M.

THE EXHIBIT HALL WILL CLOSE AT 4:15 FOR THE DAY.

4:15 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

1. GRANTS AND FUNDING SOURCES.....Room 209

How do you go about finding and securing additional funding sources for your municipality? Grant experts explain.

Presiding: Mayor Steve Northcutt, Malvern

Speakers: Chad Gallagher, Principal, Legacy Consulting
Kevin Smith, CEO, The Grant Book Company

2. PLANNING YOUR PARKS SYSTEM.....Rooms 102-103

Nothing demonstrates municipal pride like your city parks. Is there a professional way to plan your parks systems? The speakers explain.

Presiding: City Clerk Sherri Gard, Fort Smith

Speakers: Tom Cogan, President
Arkansas Parks & Recreation Association
Dave Roberts, Vice President & Director of Planning
Crafton Tull
Julie Luther, AICP, ASLA, Crafton Tull

3. TIMELY HUMAN RESOURCE TOPICSRoom 207

Background checks, is there a "best" way to conduct them? What about some of the other timely Human Resource topics that municipal officials face? Speakers expand on these topics.

Presiding: Alderman Dorothy Henderson, Warren

Speakers: Bill Mann, Deputy City Attorney, Little Rock

4. DRUG TESTING: EXAMINING THE NEW RULES
AND REGULATIONSRooms 203-204

Drug testing regulations are constantly changing. It is important that you know what changes have occurred. If you are considering implementing a drug testing program for your Non-Commercial Drivers Licensed Employees, then listen to some of the information that you need to know prior to making a decision.

Presiding: Alderman Marina Brooks, Sherwood

Speakers: Judy Sims, CEO, a'TEST Consultants
David Schoen, Legal Counsel
Arkansas Municipal League

5. MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROLRoom 208

Vicious dogs, strays, euthanasia are all part of animal control. There is a professional way to manage your animal control department.

Presiding: Alderman T.C. Pickett, Dumas

Speaker: Hedy Limke, Supervisor, Jacksonville Animal Shelter

6. WORKERS' COMPENSATION:
SUGGESTIONS TO FILING YOUR CLAIMS.....Room 205

This session is designed to provide you with information that will assist you in reducing your workers' compensation cost. The AML staff will share suggestions with you on this very important topic.

Presiding: City Attorney Howard Cain, Huntsville

Speakers: Sheryll Lipscomb, Assistant Director
Arkansas Municipal League

Arkansas Municipal League Workers'
Compensation Staff

7. FAIRS AND FESTIVALS:
PROMOTING YOUR MUNICIPALITYRooms 201-202

Arkansas municipalities have some of the best festivals in the country. They bring in thousands of people and many dollars. What are some of the benefits of municipal festivals and could your municipality benefit from some of the suggestions of these panel members?

Presiding: Vice Mayor James Colhoun, Arkadelphia

Speakers: Mayor Bryan Martin, Warren

Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy, DeQueen

4:15 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE..... Hall A

Each municipality has a designated representative who is a member of the Resolutions Committee.

Presiding: Mayor Frank Fogleman, Marion

First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League

5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE GRAND LOBBY OF THE
CONVENTION CENTERGrand Lobby

The fantastic reception sponsored by Crews is one of the highlights of the annual convention. Drop by and enjoy delicious heavy hors D'oeuvres. When you see the sponsor be sure and thank them for this event.

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DINNER.....ON YOUR OWN

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9:00 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT/DESSERTSHorner Hall Ballroom

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Desserts sponsored by:

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Morgan Keegan/Regions Bank

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2011

6:30 A.M.

PRE-BREAKFAST EXERCISE WALK/JOG.....Embassy Suites Lobby

Meet in the Lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

7:15 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION OPENS.....Grand Lobby

7:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

EXHIBITS OPEN.....Halls B-D

(Exhibit Hall will close at 10:30 A.M. for the remainder of the Convention.)

7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

BUFFET BREAKFAST.....Halls B-D

8:00 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.

CITY ATTORNEYS.....Rooms 104-105

8:45 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Hall A

At this session outgoing President Murry Witcher makes his parting remarks followed by the Annual Business Meeting. During the business meeting, the Executive Director gives his annual report and the League's Policies and Goals are presented and voted on. The nominating committee presents their recommended slate of new officers for the upcoming year, which will be followed by the annual business meetings for Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust, Municipal Health Benefit Fund, and Municipal Vehicle Program.

10:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

BREAK.....Halls B-D

10:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY
MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS..... Hall A

Despite having the best intentions, city officials often make dumb mistakes. What are some of the more common mistakes and how can you avoid them?

Presiding: Mayor Frank Fogleman, Marion

First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League

Speakers: Mark Hayes, General Counsel

Arkansas Municipal League

Ken Wasson, Assistant Director

Arkansas Municipal League

NOON to 1:30 P.M.

AWARDS AND NEW OFFICERS'
LUNCHEONHorner Hall Ballroom

Municipalities and individuals are honored for their many successes and contributions during this past year. The new League President and officers will be introduced to the convention delegates.

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF
MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND ZONING..... Hall A

(Certification Hours)

Contest promotes inclusive play equipment

A contest open to local governments could mean \$150K in equipment and services geared to make playgrounds more accessible to children with disabilities.

By Katie Kava

In January of 2010, Landscape Structures introduced the Inclusive Play playground design solution to truly welcome children and families of all abilities to the playground. This design solution builds on the years of experience Landscape Structures has in providing industry-leading accessible and age-appropriate challenges, and also addresses the sensory needs of children with autism and other sensory-processing disorders, as well as those that are typically developing.

To further unite children of all abilities on the playground, Landscape Structures partners with Shane's Inspiration, a nonprofit organization specializing in the design and educational programming of inclusive playgrounds. For 10 years, Landscape Structures and Shane's Inspiration have worked to design and install playgrounds that achieve the highest levels of inclusive play, as well as provide integrated play programming that promotes understanding of the unique abilities of every child.

The playground is a child's classroom. And while a child's entrance into a classroom would never be denied, children with disabilities are routinely denied entrance onto the playground, as many traditional playgrounds are inaccessible to them. This means that children with disabilities are denied the vital benefits of play. It's important to provide inclusive play environments as well as integrated play programming so that children of all abilities develop physically, mentally and socially.

Landscape Structures and Shane's Inspiration are celebrating their 10 years of partnership through the Together We Play essay contest. The contest, which

began on April 4 and runs through Aug. 1, asks communities to share their vision for an inclusive playground and how it will further their commitment to social inclusion. The community that submits the winning essay will win \$100,000 in playground equipment from Landscape Structures along with \$50,000 of project development, design and educational programming services from Shane's Inspiration.

Additionally, five regional winners will be selected, each of which will receive \$10,000 in inclusive playground equipment along with inclusive playground design, project development and educational programming services valued at \$50,000.

"It has been an honor to partner with Shane's Inspiration on the creation of more than 30 spectacular playgrounds in the Western U.S., and we hope that this contest will help bring inclusive play to more communities throughout the U.S. and Canada," said Pat Faust, president of Landscape Structures.

The contest is open to representatives of U.S. and Canadian government entities (excluding Quebec), including parks and recreation agencies, schools and qualified 501(c)(3) organizations. Landscape Structures encourages all qualified contestants to enter the contest by completing an online entry form and submitting an original essay. For complete contest rules and an official entry form, visit playlsi.com/Together-We-Play.

Katie Kava is communications specialist, Landscape Structures, Inc., 601 7th Street South, Delano, MN, 55328; playlsi.com. Contact Katie at 763-972-5297 or email KatieKava@playlsi.com.

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What's wrong with that tree?

Trees need protection below the ground as well as above for a long, healthy life span.

By John Slater

I received a call years ago from a homeowner requesting someone look at his trees, which had black spots all over the trunks. Since I was new to urban forestry, I contacted our forest entomologist, Jim Northum, who was then the Urban Forest Coordinator. Upon arriving at the location, we saw the problems affecting the health of the six oak trees on two different properties. Jim found that the gravel driveways to both homes were placed in the trees' critical root zone, the area considered in the drip line of a tree. In the right-of-way of the two properties, a new water line had been dug, which was also in the critical root zone of a couple of the trees. The black spots on the trees, which looked like black freckles all over the trees' trunks, indicated that the trees were inundated with red oak borers.

The first question Jim and I asked the homeowners was whether they watered their trees, and they replied that they didn't. After several weeks without a significant rain, we were in a drought. Many people are use to ignoring their trees because the trees have

always been there, and they don't realize that they need help. Trees need the equivalent of one inch of rainfall every week to be healthy. Even if you water at least every other week and/or the absolute bare minimum deep water once a month, there are no guarantees that it is enough.

Insects and diseases are always present, but they sense when a tree is stressed and become more active. The trees mentioned above were suffering from drought stress, from soil compaction and root damage caused by vehicles driving over the roots and from having many roots dug up. It's important to know the trees' history, such as whether the homeowner might have needed to put in underground utilities like a water, gas or telephone line. These can be a stressor that may not be seen until later.

If an aggressive maintenance program (water, mulch and aerate the soil) had been started, most of the trees might have been saved. If not, the trees will slowly start to decline and die, a process that can take up to five years.

A sprinkler system designed to water



PHOTOS BY JOHN SLATER

Properly protecting trees during construction keeps them healthy.

yards helps to keep plants healthy and grass growing but often damages the trees' roots in the installation process. Though many people think tree roots are deep in the ground, they are actually very shallow. I once saw a back yard sprinkler system, where the installer had cut most of the roots of the trees in the yard. The roots of a healthy tree can grow in length two-and-a-half times the height of a tree. If a tree is 50 feet tall, it can have roots 125 feet long. It is important to protect the critical root zone of a tree, but even with care, you may only be protecting one-half to two-thirds of its root system.

In 2011, we are seeing signs of drought stress from the 2010 drought, such as in the Leyland cypress. I've also heard reports on the ips pine bark beetle, which is what you see in the crowns of the trees. First one limb will die and then another. If it's the only pine tree in the area, you don't need to panic, but you will need to remove the tree. If it is touching another pine tree, you need to cut it down immediately or the beetle could move into the other tree. Hypoxylon Canker shows up

after stressful droughts and moves into dying oak trees. Control is achieved by maintaining the trees in a healthy condition. The drought is forecast to continue in 2011, so if it starts to get hot and dry, you need to water your high value trees on a regular basis throughout the summer. Remember, they may be trying to recover from last year's drought.

For assistance on diagnoses contact one of our local AFC offices in your county. To find one in your area, go to www.forestry.state.ar.us and look for "Who do I call" on the left side of the Web page, then click on your county.

Make a Memory...Plant a Tree



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



Laying utility lines is one way to compromise the strength and health of a tree's root system.

Fairs & Festivals

June 10, **BENTONVILLE**, 7th Arts Fest,
479-254-0254,
www.downtownbentonville.org

June 10-11, **WYNNE**, 35th Wynne
Farm Fest, 870-238-4183,
ncj1978@hotmail.com

June 15-18, **SMACKOVER**, 40th Oil
Town Festival, 870-725-3521,
www.smackoverar.com

June 17-18, **DARDANELLE**,
22nd Yell Fest, 479-229-3328,
www.dardanellechamber.com

June 24-25, **EMERSON**, 22nd
Purplehull Pea Festival & World
Championship Rotary Tiller
Race, 870-547-3500,
www.purplehull.com

July 2, **CARAWAY**, 4th of July Picnic,
870-219-3829; **DEQUEEN**, 10th
Let Freedom Ring, 870-642-4140,
KatKins@Cityofdequeen.com;
REDFIELD, 4th of July Spectacular,
870-692-4010,
Diannsmith@hotmail.com

July 2-3, **FAIRFIELD BAY**, 35th 4th of
July Celebration, 501-884-3324,
www.ffbchamber.org

July 3, **ALMA**, Mayor's July 3rd
Celebration, 479-632-4110,
crissy@cityofalma.org

July 4, **ALTUS**, 4th of July Celebration,
479-468-4684,
www.altusarcofc.com;

BOONEVILLE, Celebrate Freedom
Fireworks Display, 479-675-2666;

CHEROKEE VILLAGE, Thunder
on Thunderbird 4th of July Festival,
870-257-3969; **EL DORADO**,
Fantastic Fourth Celebration, 870-
863-6113, www.goeldorado.com;

EUREKA SPRINGS, Family Fun
Downtown 4th of July, 479-244-
5074; **HORSESHOE BEND**, 4th
of July Parade and Celebration,
870-670-5764,

www.horseshoebendarcc.com;

POCAHONTAS, Fireworks
Display, 870-892-8801;

RUSSELLVILLE, Community
Fireworks Display, 479-968-1272;

SALEM, Fireworks in the Park,
870-895-5565,

www.SalemAR.com;

SHERWOOD, 12th 4th of July
Family Celebration, 501-833-
3790, amy@sherwoodparks.com;

SILOAM SPRINGS, Fire in the
Sky, 479-524-5779,
www.siloamsprings.com



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Sun's damaging rays directly linked to melanoma

By Daniel Davis, M.D.

The next time you're outside enjoying the sun among a group of five friends or family members, take a look around and remember that statistics show one of you will likely be diagnosed with skin cancer.

With more than one million skin cancers diagnosed each year, it's more than the combined incidence of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung and colon.

The most dangerous type of skin cancer is melanoma, which is the leading cause of death from skin disease. The development of melanoma is directly related to sun exposure or ultraviolet radiation, particularly among people with fair skin, blue or green eyes, and red or blond hair.

And so while this time of year might call for spending hours in the sun perfecting your tan, it's important to first learn about melanoma and what you can do to protect you and your family.

Know the risks

Certain factors can make you more likely to get melanoma.

While some risk factors are out of your control, such as skin complexion or family history, there are some you can take into your own hands to protect yourself. Here are some of the most important risk factors to think about:

- Tanning beds, laying out in the sun—Both of these activities highly increase the risk of melanoma. If you've ever had severe blistering sunburns at any point in your lifetime, your risk is highest.
- Lots of moles, or some large ones—Those with several moles on their body or even just a few large ones need to keep an eye on them and get them checked at regular doctor visits. A large mole at birth, called a congenital mole, also increases the risk for melanoma.
- Melanoma runs in your family—If one or more of your relatives has had melanoma, your chances are increased and extra precaution should be taken.

Keep an eye out

The primary symptom of any skin cancer is usually a mole, sore, lump or growth on the skin. Changes in appearance over time or any bleeding are definite warning signs.

Treating melanoma successfully hinges on recognizing symptoms early. You might not notice a small spot of concern if you don't look carefully, so perform thorough self-examinations monthly, and schedule a formal skin exam with a dermatologist annually.

Your doctor will look at the appearance of the growth, sore or lump. A biopsy is often used for diagnosis. The biopsy may involve removing a small area of a growth, or the entire growth.

Cover up

Most of the damage comes in the form of ultraviolet light, commonly referred to as UVA and UVB, which pass through the atmosphere and causes changes to our skin.

When a sunburn occurs, UVB rays directly damage the cell's DNA. In order to protect itself, the body gets rid of the damaged DNA by destroying the cell and dilating the blood vessels, giving the red glow of sunburn. Damaged DNA can lead to skin cancer.

The only defense is to block the damaging rays from penetrating your skin.

Use a sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB, and has an SPF of between 15 and 30. Added measures of protection include wearing hats and protective clothing and spending time outside early in the mornings, late in the afternoon or at night.



Daniel Davis, M.D., is Associate Professor of Dermatology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

The new **2011 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities** has arrived. The *Acts Book* compiles the newest state laws affecting Arkansas municipalities passed during the 2011 legislative session.

The *Acts Book* supplements the 2009-2010 edition of the **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials**, which is the most complete publication on municipal law and government in Arkansas. You may order and pay for your copy online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org, or use the order form below.



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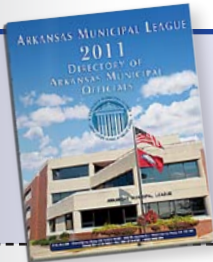
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Changes to 2011 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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

Ashdown

Delete PRD Kenny Williams
Add PRD Nick Bishop

Ash Flat

Delete SS Danny Grant
Add SS Regan Nicholson
Delete PRD Danny Grant
Add PRD Regan Nicholson

Bauxite

Delete E-Mail bgh_rt@hotmail.com
Add E-Mail jmcmanhan@bauxitearkansas.us
Delete CA (Vacant)
Add CA Lorraine Hatcher

Brinkley

Delete PRD Nathaniel Camper
Add PRD (Vacant)
Add AM Karen Nickelson

Bryant

Delete PC Tony Coffman
Add PC Mark Kizer
Delete PD (Vacant)
Add PD Robin Ussery

Cave City

Delete R/T (Vacant)
Add R/T Krystal Barnt

Cave Springs

Delete PC Rick Moore
Add PC Mike Caudill

Edmondson

Delete E-Mail edmondsoncity1@aol.com
Add E-Mail edmondsoncity1@aol.com

Elkins

Delete PC John Williams
Add PC (Vacant)

Gould

Delete R/T (Vacant)
Add R/T Mary Prewett
Add AL Rosieanna Smith-Lee

Guion

Delete M Lynn Pittman
Add M Kathy Roberts
Delete MA P.O. Box 22
Add MA P.O. Box 8
Delete TEL 870-346-5685
Add TEL 870-346-5435

Hoxie

Delete WS/WW Bob Boyd
Add WS/WW James Houston
Delete FC Cassie Sapp
Add FC Mark Van Brook

Keo

Delete AL Tommy Anderson
Add AL (Vacant)

Lockesburg

Delete AL (Vacant)
Add AL Bill Roberts

Nimmons

Delete M Roger Beck
Add M E.M. Perry

Pangburn

Delete PC Harold Glenn
Add PC Terry Mullenax

Pine Bluff

Delete FC Dannie Smith
Add FC//A Shauwn Howell, Sr.

Rogers

Add AM Lynn Keith

Stamps

Delete PC Charles Lamb
Add PC Jerry Reich

Tull

Delete R/T Jane Gillis
Add R/T Brandi McDade

Wheatley

Delete PC C.P. Kuczynski
Add PC Donald Parkman

Yellville

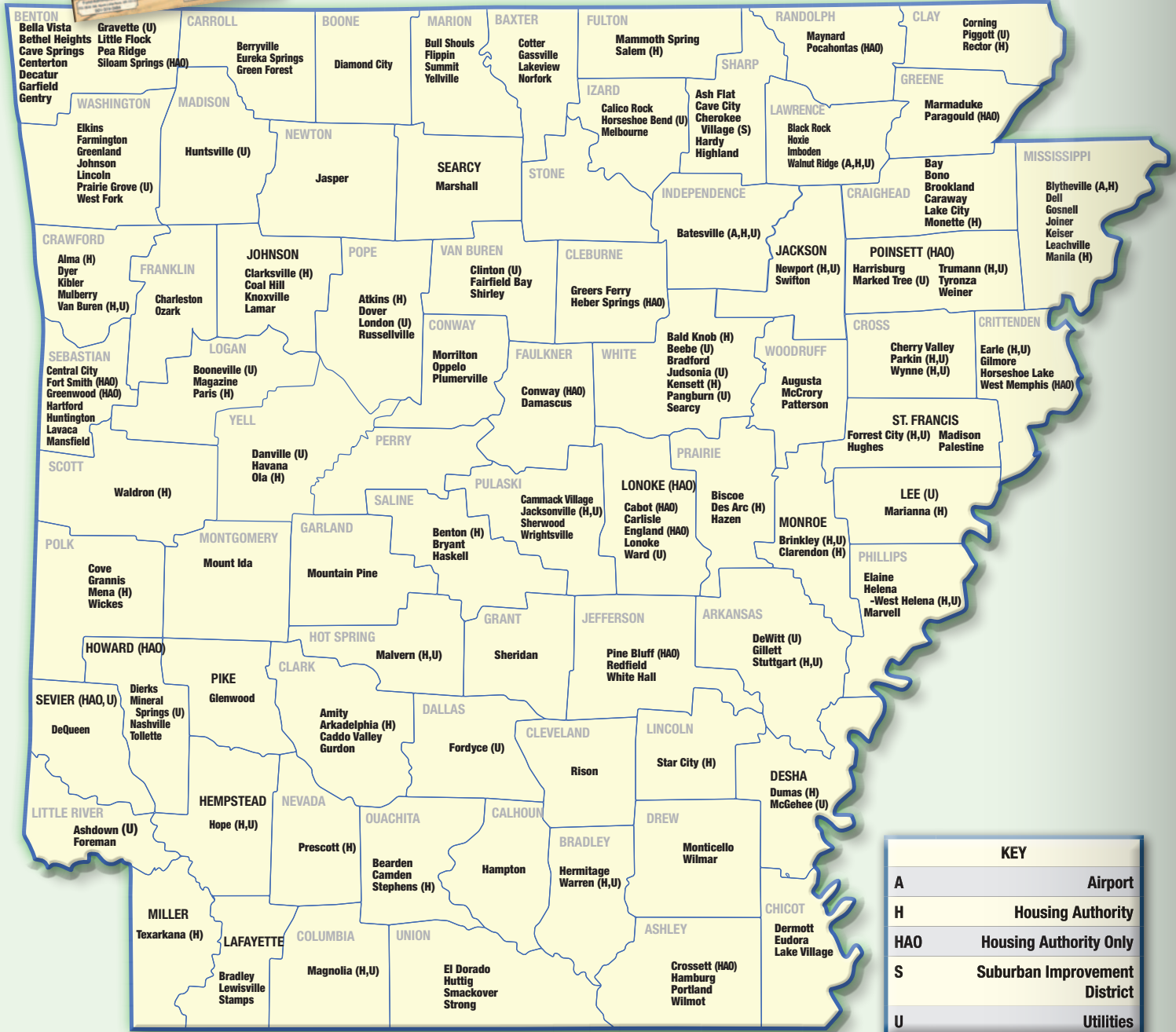
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Barton-Lexa Water..... Phillips County
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District..... Lonoke
Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force DeQueen
Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Russellville
Fifth Judicial District Russellville
Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water.....Lonoke and Prairie Counties
Holiday Island Suburban Improvement DistrictCarroll County

Ladd Water Users Association Pine Bluff
Lakeview Midway Public Water..... Lakeview
Lee County Water Association Marianna
Local Police & Fire Retirement System..... Little Rock
Montgomery County Nursing Home Mount Ida
NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District Paragould
North Little Rock - Library..... North Little Rock
North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water North Little Rock
Northwest AR Conservation Authority Rogers

Northwest AR Economic Development District Harrison
Ozark Regional Transit Ozark
SE AR Economic Development District..... Pine Bluff
Sevier County Water Association DeQueen
Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force Camden
Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District.. Nashville
Western AR Planning & Development District.....Fort Smith
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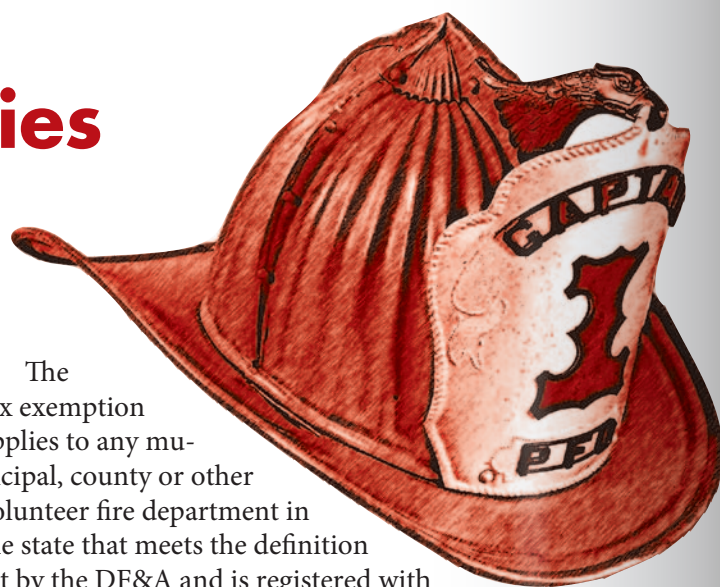
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Tax exemption applies to volunteer fire departments

Volunteer fire departments in Arkansas are exempt from all state and local sales and use taxes on the gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from the sale of fire protection equipment, emergency equipment, building supplies and other items, according to rules set forth in GR-31.1 by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A).

The exemption on the purchase and sale of protection and emergency equipment applies to a variety of items that includes but is not limited to axes, communication equipment, extinguishers, first aid equipment, hazardous material disposal equipment, hoses, ladders, jaws of life, lights, motor vehicles, training aids, water rescue equipment and more.

Qualifying fire department building supplies, materials and fixtures include but are not limited to lumber, roofing materials, concrete, bricks, cinder blocks, plumbing parts, electrical wiring and equipment, carpeting, windows, doors and more.



The tax exemption applies to any municipal, county or other volunteer fire department in the state that meets the definition set by the DF&A and is registered with the Administrator of the Office of Fire Services.

For a complete listing online of the DF&A's definitions and rules for volunteer fire department exemptions under GR-31.1, and for exemption rules for other departments of local government, follow these steps:

1. Visit www.dfa.arkansas.gov/offices/policyandlegal/pages/revenuerules.aspx.
2. Scroll to the "Excise Tax" subtopic.
3. Click on "Gross Receipts Tax Rules."

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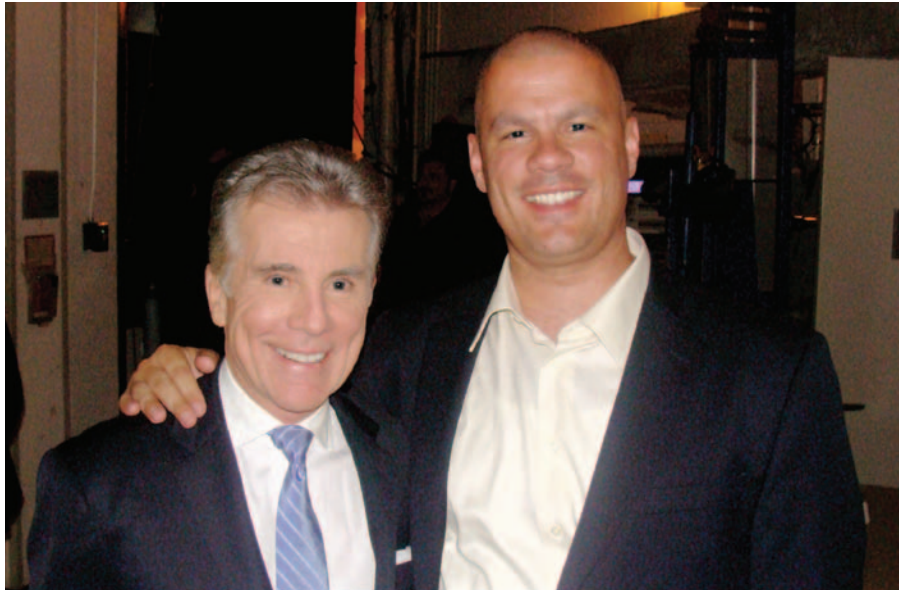
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NLR officer nabs America's Most Wanted award

North Little Rock Police Officer Tommy Norman, right, met John Walsh, left, the popular host of *America's Most Wanted*, on a May trip to Washington, D.C., where he received the show's namesake All Star award for his many community service efforts.



North Little Rock Police Officer Tommy Norman has beat out eight finalists from across the country to claim the title of 2011 America's Most Wanted All-Star. The award is presented each year by the popular TV show *America's Most Wanted* to honor our nation's first responders.

Officer Norman on May 13 was in Washington, D.C., to meet *America's Most Wanted* host John Walsh and accept the award and a check for \$10,000 presented by contest sponsor Sprint-Nextel. He also participated in a parade with officers from across the nation as part of National Law Enforcement Week.

"The D.C. trip was, in one word, a humbling experience," Norman said. "It was a huge blessing to win. The goal was always to bring a lot of positive attention, not for me, but for the North Little Rock Police Department and Arkansas in general."

Norman, who has been a North Little Rock officer since 1998, has earned the nickname "Officer Friendly" for his many community outreach efforts, which prominently include work with local children through initiatives like the Star Student Program at elementary schools and the "Shop with a Cop" program, which he established. It comes as no surprise that Officer Norman will donate the \$10,000 to some of his favorite charities. He'll split the money between the North Little Rock Boys & Girls Club; the North Little Rock Police Athletic League, specifically for its youth football program; Special Olympics Arkansas; and his church home, the Friendly Chapel, for its soup kitchen program.

As part of his grand prize, Officer Norman traveled May 21 to Charlotte, N.C., and attended the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series All-Star Race.

CALENDAR

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

**Congress of Cities
and Exposition 2011
Tuesday-Saturday
November 8-12, 2011
Phoenix, Arizona**

Austin opens doors at new city hall

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

City leaders in Austin, the small but growing Lonoke County city just northeast of Jacksonville on U.S. 67, are settling in nicely after an early April move into their new city hall.

As the city has grown, the old building increasingly became inadequate, Mayor Bernadette Chamberlain says. The city got many years of good use out of the former city hall building, but city leaders and employees were cramped in the space, sometimes with four or five people or more in one small office space. The district court judge, court clerk, bookkeeper and recorder/treasurer were crammed in one office. Another small office was the home of the entire Austin Police Department—the chief, two full-time and nine part-time officers. A small closet served as the city’s makeshift jail cell.



In the old city hall, the entire police department was forced to share this one, small office.

The new city hall, while not a brand new building, is a big step up for the city, Chamberlain says. The building is a former medical office. There’s enough office space for the mayor, recorder/treasurer, office manager, police chief and two full-time officers to have their own offices with room left over for small meeting spaces and a police department evidence storage room. The new city hall also has plenty of storage for city files.

One space the new building lacks is a room large enough for city council meetings and other larger community gatherings. The city will for now continue to hold council and other larger meetings in the meeting room at the old building—which they now call the annex—until they can figure out how to expand the new building, either by building on or knocking out a wall and creating a larger space.

The city had their eye on the new space for several years, the mayor says. The former owners originally wanted \$274,000 for the building five years ago, which



Austin city leaders as of April are serving their community from a new city hall. From left, Tim Colbert of the Public Works Department, Corporal Todd Baldwin, Mayor Bernadette Chamberlain, Director of Public Works John Ryan, and Police Chief John Staley.

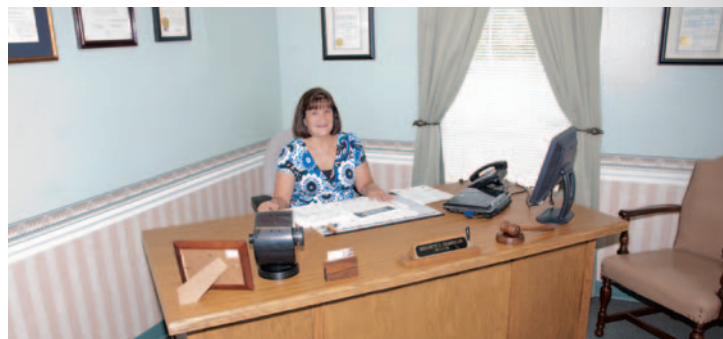
was too steep for the city. A year ago they went down to \$190K. The city and owner eventually settled on \$125K as is. The building needed a new roof and some other minor repairs, but they consider it a bargain, Chamberlain says.

The new city hall is being paid for with a one-cent sales tax—Austin’s first—passed by local voters about three years ago. The city paid \$50K down on the new city hall and financed the remainder for five years. The tax and the new facility were much needed in the growing bedroom community, Chamberlain believes. The city’s population has more than tripled since the 2000 Census, jumping from 605 to 2,038 in the last decade.

“We’ve come a long way,” Chamberlain says.

Until about a year ago, Chamberlain, who has served as mayor for more than a decade, ran a corner convenience store just down the street from city hall.

“I never realized how much I did, city-wise, out of there,” she says. “Now they just come to the house or come here. I gave everyone my cell phone. I told them if you have a problem you call me. We have grown and I’m so proud of it.”



Austin's new city hall has enough space for Mayor Chamberlain to have her own office from which to serve her growing community.



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Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Dustin McDaniel

County may assist private property cleanup in disaster

Opinion: 2011-012

Requestor: Threet, John—Pros. Atty., 4th Judicial District

Can county personnel coordinate and direct volunteers to go onto private property to assist citizens in their efforts to clean up debris in the aftermath of a disaster/emergency? **RESPONSE:** For purposes of this opinion, I make two assumptions. First, I assume that the citizens you reference in your question do not object to the help. Second, I assume that by referencing “volunteers,” you are only asking about the county’s ability to assist in clearing debris, not about reimbursement of the county with disaster-relief funds. With these assumptions in mind, in my opinion, Arkansas law likely empowers County Emergency Management Departments to direct volunteers to assist in clearing debris from private property after a disaster has been declared.

Council position must be filled in reasonable time

Opinion: 2011-015

Requestor: Lea, Andrea—State Representative

Does the phrase “at the first regular meeting after the occurrence of a vacancy,” as it is used in ACA 14-43-411(b)(1), apply to language in ACA 14-43-411(b)(2), which provides that “if the unexpired portion of the term of alderman is one year or less, a successor shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members of the council”? Q2) If the council fails to select a replacement for the vacant position for several months, what are the legal ramifications for the council’s failure to act? **RESPONSE:** Q1) No, the “first regular meeting” requirement is simply not a part of subsection (2) and, by the plain meaning of the words therein, therefore does not apply. The council is required, however, to fill the vacancy within a reasonable time. Q2) No consequences would necessarily follow such a failure, but there may be a remedy or sanction, three possibilities of which are referred to in the opinion, depending on all the relevant facts and circumstances.

Contract with unregistered fund manager may be invalid

Opinion: 2011-017

Requestor: Lea, Andrea—State Representative

The broker who contracted with the Russellville Fire Pension and Relief Board to manage its fund was found to have violated ACA 23-42-301(c) because he was not registered under the Arkansas Securities Act. Does such

a violation make the agreement with the broker void, or must the board take some type of action to terminate the agreement with the broker? **RESPONSE:** A court faced with the question might conclude that the Arkansas Securities Act does not invalidate a contract entered by an unregistered investment advisor or representative, given the absence of a provision in the Act expressly declaring such a contract as illegal or void. However, there are no reported decisions addressed to the precise question. Even if the Act does not declare such a contract void, it does not follow that the contract is thereby valid or enforceable. The contract may well be subject to rescission by the pension and relief fund board. Civil liability may also attach if securities were offered or sold in violation of the registration requirements. I suggest that the board seek the advice of its local counsel in determining how best to proceed under the attendant circumstances.

Council must heed law when setting salary

Opinion: 2011-036

Requestor: Clemmer, Ann V.—State Representative

Can an elected official’s salary be set based on an “employee merit system,” such as the JESAP compensation system established for employees for fair compensation? Q2) Regarding this merit system, is it constitutional that increases or decreases in the elected officials’ salaries be based on whether or not the official has previous elected experience? Q3) Can a newly elected mayor or city clerk’s salary be decreased because the officer does not have “prior elected experience”? Q4) Do the words “prior elected experience” mean any elected experience including public office, elected positions to civic organizations, boards, commissions, political organizations, sports committees, etc.? Q5) Can a city council set an ordinance establishing that all elected city officials’ salaries be set based on a merit evaluation system? Q6) Is such ordinance is legal, do the words “all elected city officials” apply to all elected city officials including city aldermen, city attorney, city mayor, city clerk/treasurer, etc.? Q7) Should there be a city ordinance establishing the salary by dollar amount for all elected city officials? Q8) Can the salary of an elected official be decreased for his/her term after the filing period for that office? Q9) Can a city elected official’s salary be lowered due to education level reached (having or not having a degree)? **RESPONSE:** Each of the following brief responses is explained more fully below. The answer to Questions 1, 2, and 5 is that, when a city council sets salaries, no Arkansas law either requires it

to consider or prohibits it from considering an official's education, experience, or both. But the council must set the salary in a manner and amount that does not give rise to other legal problems. The answer to Questions 3, 8, and 9 generally depends on when the reduction in salary took place. As long as it occurred before the official took office, the reduction usually does not violate ACA § 14-42-113. As explained below, however, a definitive answer may depend on the particular facts surrounding the adoption of the "merit system." I cannot respond to Questions 4 and 6 because they ask me to construe a local ordinance, which is something this office cannot do when issuing opinions. The answer to Question 7 is that, while the city council clearly must fix salaries, the salaries do not necessarily have to be a specific dollar amount. Rather, provided that the council abides by some caveats explained below, it can set salaries according to a range or sliding scale, in my opinion.

Laws take effect 90 days after session

Opinion: 2011-056
Requestor: Martin, Mark—Secretary of State
The Eighty-Eighth General Assembly adjourned sine die on April 27, 2011. What will be the effective date for legislation that did not carry an emergency clause or specified effective date? **RESPONSE:** July 27, 2011. Acts of the General Assembly with no emergency clause or specified effective date become effective ninety days after adjournment of the session at which they were enacted. This is calculated by starting with the first full day after adjournment, and counting ninety full days, with the acts becoming effective on the ninety-first day.

Some bond issues must be put to vote

Opinion: 2011-014
Requestor: Bookout, Paul—State Senator
Under current law, can the City of Jonesboro fund a bond issue for capital improvements (such as new police and fire stations, a public works facility and city hall renovations) by pledging city franchise fees and then reimbursing the general fund with a capital improvements sales tax without taking this issue to the voters, or can the city proceed with the proposed bond issue funding for capital improvements? **RESPONSE:** Based on and limited to facts stated in the request and its attachments, facts otherwise known to me, and facts assumed for purposes of preparing this opinion, my opinion is as follows: The City must put the question to voters before it may issue bonds under Act 25 or Amendment 62. The City almost certainly may issue bonds under Amendment 65 without a vote, provided the bonds are secured solely by franchise fees. The bonds will not have been validly issued, however, if an arrangement to reimburse franchise fees with tax money

causes the bonds to be indirectly secured by taxes, a fact-intensive question I cannot answer. The City's use of dedicated tax money to reimburse franchise fees expended on bond debt service is likely permissible if limited to the amount of actual capital costs. The reimbursement is likely unlawful under Act 25 or Article 16 of the Arkansas Constitution to the extent it includes amounts for bond interest or other costs that would not have been incurred absent bond issuance.

One occupational license should do

Opinion: 2011-035
Requestor: Sample, Bill—State Senator
If a person holds a license to provide pest control services and acquires an occupational license in the city where the person has a physical office building, does that person also have to acquire an occupational license in cities and towns where he or she provides pest control services but does not have a physical office building? **RESPONSE:** No, assuming as a matter of fact that the person does not maintain a place of business in any of the other cities or towns where services are provided. See ACA 26-77-102(b). This subsection plainly conditions the payment of an occupation license fee or tax to more than one city upon the fact that the "person, firm, individual, or corporation ... maintains a place of business in more than one (1) city." To the extent Attorney General Opinion 2002-343 suggests that it is irrelevant whether the business has already obtained a license or paid the tax in one city in Arkansas, I must disagree.

Voters may change tax's use

Opinion: 2011-043
Requestor: Carter, Davy—State Representative
Q1) Based on ACA 26-74-208 and other applicable codes, is it lawful for the county to refer to the citizens for a vote changing the current use of the countywide sales tax without changing the percentage allocated to the county and municipalities? Q2) Is the following proposal legal based on the current code: 55% for the municipalities with 10% of this amount used to operate and maintain the jail and 45% to the county with 10% of this amount dedicated to the operations and maintenance of the jail with the remaining funds [i.e., 35% of the total amount allocated to the county] being divided as they currently are. **RESPONSE:** Because you have not attached the ordinance or the ballot title that the voters used to approve the original tax, I have had to make several assumptions, which are explained in the opinion. In light of those assumptions, the answer to Question 1, is yes. Question 2 contains two sub-questions. Please see the opinion for a detailed reply to each.

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

Email: friend or foe?

Using email effectively is a crucial step when honing one's communication skills in the office.

By Randy Wright

When Little Rock business leaders were asked in a survey several years ago what the most pressing deficiency was among job applicants they interviewed, the overwhelming response was a lack of communication skills. Specifically, many younger job applicants lack basic reading and writing skills so vital to the success of a business. This is especially shocking when one considers the vast amount of communication avenues available to younger generations today.

Clear communication is crucial to any business concern. It is a major part of work and essential for organized activity. Effective communication skills can lead to advancement. Often an employer's evaluation of your work production is gauged largely by your ability to relate and communicate. With the emergence of email, social networks, multi-screen television images, texting and "tweeting," a young person is exposed to a great variety of information, which carries with it a need to appreciate the difference each communicative network brings to the workplace. Yet, despite such this vast array of means of instant communication, many job applicants and business people simply do not use communication formats well, both during the application process and on the job itself.

Business has changed mightily since the dawn of the computer era. Similarly, issues such as cultural diversity at work, growing presence of ethics and the international nature of business have caused the typical approaches to communication to change dramatically. The classic "Monday morning water cooler meeting" has been replaced by the Monday morning videoconference, follow-up strategy meeting and team consultation sessions. And reliance on memos and Post-it notes has been replaced by a barrage of business email, which unfortunately has its own associated problems.

Email is business's friend and enemy. Email is wonderful in that it's quick, cheap, and provides an effective paper trail of the conversations between two business interests. Email has also become the source of much

angst and anger, because people too often write poorly and ignore basic rules of business and etiquette.

For effective email in a business setting, certain rules apply. As email takes over as the chief problem-solving communiqué, it is more important than ever to recall some simple guidelines to ensure your emails are written well and, perhaps most importantly, responded to effectively. The first rule is the one most often neglected: Use the subject line as an attention getter with relevant information to guarantee it is opened, read and acted upon timely.

What business doesn't use email to notify employees of important meetings? Yet, how many times is this crucial piece of information conveyed simply with a subject line notice of "Meeting?" The subject line must give the reader a sense of what is to come in the body of the email so that the message is read and noted. Meeting Manager is probably the best way to set up a meeting in Microsoft Outlook, because after a reader has accepted it, the meeting appears on the meeting participant's calendar. Considering that the average executive often attends five to 10 meetings of some kind each week, a one-word "Meeting" notice hardly qualifies as an effective opening. The intended audience might not even realize which meeting or, worse yet, assume it refers to a different meeting and not open the message until time for performance has passed.

The email message should be concise, clear and convey only the right information. Long emails often are not read and are too indirect for an adequate response. Clarify the date, time, location and purpose of any meeting in a meeting message.

Edit the email. Lately it seems more business executives are upset with poorly written emails than the message being conveyed. Email creates a paper trail. The writer must assume that not only the intended receiver will read the email, but also everyone the reader forwards to or replies to with a Cc. Embarrassing typos and emotional outbursts and criticisms can come back to haunt a careless writer.

Take care before clicking “reply all.” Too often readers assume that a message is only going out to one reader and negligently click “reply all.” A message calling your supervisor a jerk may be sent directly to the supervisor. And a note copied to everyone in the office may not require a reply to everyone in the office. Executives often complain about the increasing number of “copied” emails they receive that clog their inbox and make it more difficult to handle daily work through the medium. Check with an appropriate executive about the propriety of “reply all” and the correct pecking order of “copied replies” used in your office.

Finally, use proper etiquette. Be polite in your communication. Again, email is likely to be read by more people than originally intended. Polite, concise and clear emails read as well in the future as they do in the present. Angry emails may make you feel better as you write them, but they are more likely to be a source of regret in the not so distant future.

Email is a wonderful tool. It provides a quick and effective way to communicate if done properly, but it should not be taken too casually. Email is not a good forum for argument in business, nor is it a place to show off one’s command of the English language. If an email makes you angry, consider an alternative way to address the person instead of responding in “un-kind.”

Business has always and will always judge employees by their ability to communicate effectively. Edit your words, your tone and your understanding of your reader each time and you will find that email can assist you in climbing the corporate ladder.



Randy Wright is Deputy Director, Institute for Economic Advancement, UALR, 501-569-8519.



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

The Municipal Property Program's 2010 annual meeting in November adopted rates according to the following scale for 2011. See the new rates below.



FIRE CLASS I	—	.0017	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.0018	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0020	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0021	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0026	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0028	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0029	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium

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

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2011 with 2010 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
Jan.	\$35,123,247	\$34,674,109	\$35,666,555	\$35,450,558	\$70,789,802	\$70,124,667	\$27,640	\$60,271	
Feb.	\$42,235,810	\$41,006,941	\$42,753,266	\$42,937,896	\$84,989,076	\$83,944,837	\$34,351	\$59,485	
March	\$33,606,662	\$33,818,100	\$34,174,199	\$34,971,579	\$67,780,861	\$68,789,679	\$35,321	\$76,714	
April	\$35,244,719	\$34,427,642	\$35,257,864	\$36,042,561	\$70,502,583	\$70,470,203	\$23,355	\$78,790	
May	\$39,976,322	\$38,636,249	\$40,107,935	\$38,049,255	\$80,084,257	\$76,685,474	\$9,286	\$49,923	
Total	\$186,186,760	\$182,563,041	\$187,959,819	\$187,451,849	\$374,146,579	\$370,014,860	\$129,953	\$325,183	
Averages	\$37,237,352	\$36,512,608	\$37,591,964	\$37,490,370	\$74,829,316	\$74,002,972	\$25,991	\$65,037	

May 2011 Municipal Levy Receipts and March 2011 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2010 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE		AMOUNT	CITY SALES AND USE		AMOUNT	CITY SALES AND USE		AMOUNT	CITY SALES AND USE		AMOUNT
Alexander	55,800.26	35,627.22	Osnell	16,059.51	16,386.72	Patterson	1,152.50	1,747.06	Decatur	21,324.08	22,226.24
Alma	183,613.80	184,379.16	Gould	4,365.23	3,294.00	Pea Ridge	26,620.71	26,913.78	Elm Springs	476.94	219.89
Almyra	2,394.87	2,218.98	Grady	18,056.40	3,542.58	Perryville	20,228.83	20,584.05	Garfield	6,300.58	8,288.32
Alpena	2,609.39	2,966.05	Gravette	66,140.50	39,034.65	Piggott	71,853.90	19,658.29	Gateway	5,083.14	8,355.98
Altzheimer	1,956.43	2,863.26	Green Forest	27,521.42	27,521.73	Pine Bluff	632,855.39	31,883.90	Gentry	39,635.92	41,204.80
Altus	7,604.93	5,582.55	Greenbrier	146,115.22	134,262.77	Pineville	1,607.40	612,019.39	Gravette	29,180.98	32,003.07
Amity	9,195.44	8,571.67	Greenland	16,552.46	16,552.46	Plainview	3,278.41	3,337.31	Highfill	7,317.21	11,662.37
Anthonyville	108.83	NA	Greenwood	158,385.56	155,464.53	Plumerville	5,091.67	5,388.98	Little Flock	32,444.23	43,725.13
Arkadelphia	156,815.87	155,617.24	Guion	23,210.97	3,751.14	Pocahontas	111,196.48	113,342.85	Lowell	91,960.87	91,036.23
Ash Flat	75,752.18	77,672.40	Gurdon	30,732.89	32,902.56	Portia	1,981.66	2,450.52	Pea Ridge	60,169.29	39,682.46
Ashdown	126,543.83	111,696.78	Guy	4,337.47	5,186.54	Pottsville	20,591.28	27,217.55	Rogers	702,401.80	669,764.10
Atkins	48,741.42	52,514.19	Hackett	6,114.36	6,029.96	Prairie Grove	73,303.44	66,338.56	Siloam Springs	188,753.85	183,408.73
Augusta	28,394.40	29,340.38	Hamburg	29,188.68	31,637.41	Prescott	47,559.84	38,167.33	Springdale	75,983.50	34,015.95
Austin	8,323.87	7,451.08	Hardy	15,951.22	15,109.92	Pyatt	1,180.19	1,286.14	Springtown	1,091.93	1,928.30
Avoca	2,663.10	3,132.49	Harrisburg	22,397.09	23,473.70	Quitman	26,446.80	23,023.39	Sulphur Springs	6,413.54	11,349.94
Bald Knob	47,890.64	52,320.23	Harrison	225,479.89	237,053.15	Ravenden	2,373.12	2,822.29	Boone County	352,514.97	329,325.89
Baring	21,483.52	21,414.58	Hartford	2,188.59	1,726.24	Rector	24,428.65	31,245.93	Alpena	1,719.80	3,448.31
Batesville	327,503.56	334,811.04	Haskell	12,953.94	13,415.48	Redfield	17,016.70	15,771.00	Bellefonte	5,294.01	4,789.32
Bauxite	9,905.15	8,922.06	Hatfield	2,974.43	3,246.07	Rison	11,282.89	10,249.65	Bellmont	5,119.09	4,873.14
Bearden	10,541.70	10,264.74	Havana	2,515.05	3,206.44	Rockport	2,810.28	3,056.78	Diamond City	9,118.75	8,740.52
Beebe	81,393.00	78,219.67	Hazen	47,280.10	34,155.93	Roe	529.76	368.47	Everton	1,550.89	2,035.46
Beehive	180.64	218.89	Heber Springs	145,237.94	143,654.44	Rogers	2,093,341.46	2,037,159.92	Harrison	150,925.84	145,499.66
Bella Vista	125,530.26	48.53	Helena-West Helena	261,326.35	253,468.12	Rose Bud	17,072.18	29,986.12	Lead Hill	3,160.08	3,436.34
Belleville	2,461.32	2,692.52	Hermitage	4,206.89	3,442.98	Russellville	948,310.89	935,036.46	Leah Hill	1,970.68	1,975.60
Benton	638,491.05	690,006.97	Highfill	71,346.89	66,692.84	Salem	22,505.92	20,387.19	South Lead Hill	1,189.40	1,053.65
Bentonville	1,546,383.16	1,331,258.18	Highland	27,563.24	29,940.95	Searcy	276,967.39	275,415.57	Valley Springs	2,133.93	1,999.54
Berryville	163,135.09	153,837.40	Holly Grove	8,317.86	5,268.11	Shannon Hills	10,851.48	10,589.32	Zinc	1,201.05	909.98
Bethel Heights	53,566.80	43,394.43	Hope	173,675.12	170,157.93	Sheridan	179,589.75	181,725.33	Bradley County	116,330.95	121,007.28
Black Rock	5,329.75										

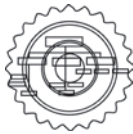
Horseshoe Lake.....	1,903.82	1,940.60	Swifton.....	7,445.55	7,013.36	Manila.....	42,431.99	30,783.35	Pindall.....	647.11	552.66
Jennette.....	674.81	674.68	Tuckerman.....	17,372.95	14,147.50	Marie.....	1,066.51	1,088.25	St. Joe.....	762.67	750.46
Jericho.....	775.87	1,112.37	Tupelo.....	1,679.45	1,425.22	Osceola.....	98,487.41	89,427.89	Sebastian County.....	775,991.30	754,810.97
Marion.....	80,488.39	53,810.77	Weldon.....	699.76	805.20	Victoria.....	469.77	594.51	Baring.....	70,921.89	68,080.08
Sunset.....	1,161.85	1,893.45	Jefferson County.....	416,322.88	404,780.02	Wilson.....	11,465.02	9,461.70	Bonanza.....	8,771.80	8,379.59
Turrell.....	3,608.78	5,206.97	Alzheimer.....	10,435.45	11,411.02	Montgomery County.....	39,558.04	39,107.22	Central City.....	7,658.16	8,656.73
West Memphis.....	171,115.26	167,254.07	Humphrey.....	3,266.38	3,819.63	Black Springs.....	511.26	593.88	Fort Smith.....	1,315,144.08	1,308,585.19
Cross County.....	241,468.92	242,647.98	Pine Bluff.....	520,531.52	527,807.46	Glenwood.....	216.90	NA	Greenwood.....	136,565.44	115,944.81
Cherry Valley.....	6,202.26	6,156.49	Redfield.....	13,754.85	11,075.96	Mount Ida.....	5,556.72	5,110.45	Hackett.....	12,387.30	11,314.07
Hickory Ridge.....	2,591.42	3,358.09	Sherrill.....	890.83	1,206.20	Norman.....	1,952.08	2,203.59	Hartford.....	9,793.90	12,585.69
Parkin.....	10,527.64	14,009.52	Wabbaseka.....	2,704.31	3,092.08	Oden.....	1,198.10	1,146.07	Huntington.....	9,687.11	11,216.26
Wynne.....	79,714.76	75,338.32	White Hall.....	58,603.93	45,299.44	Nevada County.....	30,200.53	27,012.47	Lavaca.....	34,919.38	29,752.43
Dallas County.....	127,062.27	136,216.97	Johnson County.....	109,991.85	109,978.66	Bluff City.....	837.40	862.39	Mansfield.....	11,029.58	11,509.71
Desha County.....	106,739.00	105,128.66	Clarksville.....	80,792.73	73,570.09	Bodcaw.....	931.95	840.56	Midland.....	4,957.97	4,124.58
Arkansas City.....	4,117.46	5,374.37	Coal Hill.....	8,908.50	9,540.57	Cale.....	533.51	409.36	Sevier County.....	241,009.90	250,045.22
Dumas.....	52,942.00	47,794.46	Hartman.....	4,568.69	5,680.50	Emmet.....	3,207.79	2,619.92	Ben Lomond.....	1,097.88	1,063.09
McGehee.....	47,463.31	41,699.26	Knoxville.....	6,434.90	4,470.36	Prescott.....	22,258.71	20,118.81	DeQueen.....	49,927.17	48,640.73
Mitchellville.....	4,049.96	4,534.91	Lamar.....	14,128.61	13,486.43	Rosston.....	1,762.60	1,446.41	Gilham.....	1,211.46	1,586.20
Reed.....	1,586.24	2,509.25	Lafayette County.....	81,925.82	75,680.11	Willisville.....	1,026.50	1,026.14	Horatio.....	7,904.76	8,411.94
Tillar.....	236.25	301.11	Bradley.....	3,861.05	2,862.91	Newton County.....	61,460.12	46,287.59	Lockesburg.....	5,595.42	5,998.88
Watson.....	2,373.72	2,627.88	Buckner.....	1,690.74	2,013.70	Jasper.....	2,459.46	1,919.81	Sharp County.....	66,946.21	66,291.64
Drew County.....	290,639.77	299,403.85	Lewisville.....	7,869.65	6,534.34	Western Grove.....	2,026.68	1,569.01	Ash Flat.....	8,007.72	8,181.56
Jerome.....	425.65	504.77	Stamps.....	10,408.84	10,836.32	Ouachita County.....	347,149.67	324,578.53	Cave City.....	14,234.14	15,809.30
Monticello.....	103,322.82	100,360.92	Lawrence County.....	122,993.65	136,873.30	Bearden.....	9,108.22	8,973.53	Cherokee Village.....	31,687.71	32,214.38
Tillar.....	2,226.46	2,271.45	Alicia.....	663.33	863.05	Camden.....	114,871.11	104,922.49	Evening Shade.....	3,529.94	3,901.98
Wilmar.....	5,577.05	5,265.70	Black Rock.....	3,541.31	4,267.62	Chidester.....	2,706.07	2,871.53	Hardy.....	5,964.94	6,100.51
Winchester.....	1,822.64	2,095.88	College City.....	2,433.98	1,601.10	East Camden.....	8,778.22	7,194.78	Highland.....	8,538.85	8,273.87
Faulkner County.....	677,012.68	567,062.57	Hoxie.....	14,871.36	16,766.92	Louann.....	1,546.32	1,555.41	Horseshoe Bend.....	65.37	41.96
Damascus.....	803.61	792.15	Imboden.....	3,621.55	4,071.20	Stephens.....	8,401.06	9,188.90	Sidney.....	1,478.98	2,307.62
Enola.....	2,057.73	1,262.06	Lynn.....	1,540.63	1,874.90	Perry County.....	93,270.82	99,459.76	Willford.....	612.83	528.65
Holland.....	3,391.00	3,873.46	Minturn.....	583.09	678.53	Adona.....	831.19	815.48	St. Francis County.....	138,967.52	113,107.72
Mount Vernon.....	882.76	966.69	Portia.....	2,337.69	2,874.84	Bigelow.....	1,252.76	1,434.71	Caldwell.....	9,143.68	5,583.34
Wooster.....	5,235.65	3,463.96	Powhatan.....	385.16	297.60	Casa.....	680.07	911.41	Coit.....	6,227.58	4,418.64
Franklin County.....	156,051.26	159,821.37	Ravenden.....	2,514.22	3,041.50	Fourche.....	246.57	257.29	Forrest City.....	253,238.84	177,394.20
Altus.....	6,104.97	7,042.26	Sedgwick.....	813.11	666.63	Houston.....	688.02	693.37	Hughes.....	23,740.62	22,412.42
Branch.....	2,955.84	3,077.22	Smithville.....	417.25	434.50	Perry.....	1,073.79	1,369.30	Madison.....	12,668.36	11,851.10
Charleston.....	20,086.80	25,557.28	Strawberry.....	1,615.52	1,684.43	Perryville.....	5,806.44	6,358.11	Palestine.....	11,219.54	8,897.32
Denning.....	3,793.46	3,490.96	Walnut Ridge.....	26,158.63	29,313.84	Phillips County.....	113,555.58	88,299.70	Wheatley.....	5,848.66	4,466.68
Ozark.....	29,671.12	30,384.29	Lee County.....	34,923.14	10,082.95	Elaine.....	12,711.63	6,789.67	Widener.....	4,497.72	4,022.41
Wiederkehr Village.....	306.06	396.51	Aubrey.....	1,082.20	350.15	Helena-West Helena.....	201,428.35	117,834.10	Stone County.....	81,241.20	74,502.61
Fulton County.....	100,864.18	90,502.29	Haynes.....	954.88	339.06	Lake View.....	8,854.17	4,167.99	Fifty Six.....	1,483.66	1,435.45
Ash Flat.....	499.74	9.37	LaGrange.....	566.56	193.29	Lexa.....	5,716.24	2,598.12	Mountain View.....	23,567.06	25,327.37
Cherokee Village.....	3,885.23	3,789.67	Marianna.....	26,195.54	8,208.64	Marvell.....	23,704.37	10,949.81	Union County.....	496,717.27	364,802.12
Hardy.....	205.78	126.48	Moro.....	1,375.03	381.83	Pike County.....	163,555.59	170,574.77	Calion.....	14,480.92	10,631.73
Horseshoe Bend.....	83.29	32.79	Rondo.....	1,260.44	375.49	Antoine.....	851.32	1,188.53	El Dorado.....	616,580.31	472,690.76
Mammoth Spring.....	4,786.72	5,372.99	Lincoln County.....	60,369.29	37,159.26	Daisy.....	836.76	899.02	Felsenthal.....	3,548.30	2,540.72
Salem.....	8,010.54	7,452.86	Gould.....	4,778.62	4,757.46	Delight.....	2,030.06	2,369.45	Huttig.....	19,847.73	15,736.76
Viola.....	1,651.10	1,784.74	Grady.....	2,563.44	1,906.63	Glenwood.....	15,905.80	16,052.84	Junction City.....	17,704.30	14,202.59
Garland County.....	713,174.58	701,718.42	Star City.....	12,982.76	9,008.20	Murfreesboro.....	11,940.26	13,439.59	Norphet.....	22,338.03	15,734.07
Fountain Lake.....	3,789.75	3,307.67	Little River County.....	219,355.84	234,066.86	Poinsett County.....	107,516.70	117,913.40	Smackover.....	58,768.69	43,816.97
Lonsdale.....	708.22	708.22	Ashdown.....	44,743.20	46,787.93	Fisher.....	1,600.90	1,955.32	Strong.....	16,721.09	12,994.90
Mountain Pine.....	5,801.42	6,243.32	Foreman.....	9,577.68	11,009.50	Harrisburg.....	16,425.34	16,173.85	Van Buren County.....	230,960.98	282,677.96
Grant County.....	162,508.56	166,115.54	Ogden.....	1,705.22	2,094.25	Lepanto.....	13,589.67	15,738.51	Clinton.....	20,516.20	23,672.28
Greene County.....	128,983.16	363,789.45	Wilton.....	3,543.08	4,296.15	Marked Tree.....	18,421.08	20,660.12	Damascus.....	1,971.19	1,949.36
Delaplaine.....	1,116.32	1,462.88	Winthrop.....	1,818.91	1,820.24	Trumann.....	51,996.83	50,831.04	Fairfield Bay.....	16,991.70	23,993.72
Lafe.....	4,407.54	4,434.70	Logan County.....	93,617.92	79,649.43	Tyronza.....	5,470.33	6,773.54	Shirley.....	2,294.47	3,494.33
Marmaduke.....	10,691.66	13,338.66	Blue Mountain.....	922.42	844.07	Waldenburg.....	437.91	590.29	Washington County.....	1,101,552.10	1,188,680.93
Oak Grove Heights.....	8,555.25	8,374.10	Booneville.....	29,681.01	26,326.01	Weiner.....	5,140.10	5,607.72	Elkins.....	32,808.09	19,405.52
Paragould.....	251,297.27	253,607.29	Caulksville.....	1,584.47	1,489.91	Polk County.....	245,187.17	243,573.39	Elm Springs.....	18,547.47	15,992.88
Hempstead County.....	556,060.87	552,964.85	Magazine.....	6,300.71	5,850.93	Cove.....	7,354.66	7,500.90	Farmington.....	74,016.44	55,920.77
Blevins.....	3,455.31	3,818.66	Morrison Bluff.....	476.09	473.19	Grannis.....	10,666.18	11,261.14	Fayetteville.....	911,638.72	900,425.25
Emmet.....	471.68	272.01	Paris.....	26,274.02	23,704.28	Hatfield.....	7,951.50	7,873.00	Goshen.....	13,269.44	11,665.03
Fulton.....	2,204.82	2,563.21	Ratcliff.....	1,502.65	1,221.34	Mena.....	110,454.56	110,398.26	Greenland.....	15,598.71	14,069.39
Hope.....	110,734.46	111,065.33	Scranton.....	1,666.30	1,419.57	Vandervoort.....	1,675.02	2,350.14	Johnson.....	41,555.26	35,972.34
McCaskill.....	1,053.05	878.81	Subiaco.....	4,255.01	2,807.17	Wickes.....	14,516.74	13,219.58	Lincoln.....	27,864.58	27,983.65
McNab.....	745.91	784.66	Lonoke County.....	244,348.20	260,642.22	Pope County.....	327,781.65	353,822.41	Prairie Grove.....	54,267.16	39,400.49
Oakhaven.....	691.06	564.95	Alport.....	988.05	1,378.26	Atkins.....	39,365.65	42,645.99	Springdale.....	789,760.63	679,224.08
Ozan.....	932.39	847.43	Austin.....	17,509.90	6,565.71	Dover.....	17,986.03	19,693.02	Tontitown.....	30,478.82	31,497.37
Patmos.....	702.03	638.19	Cabot.....	204,276.47	165,618.56	Hector.....	5,873.52	7,497.87	West Fork.....	28,707.08	31,675.51
Perrytown.....	2,983.63	2,667.83	Carlisle.....	19,022.04	25,003.94	London.....	13,561.31	13,706.58	Winslow.....	4,844.39	6,189.27
Washington.....	1,974.45	1,548.38	Coy.....	824.80	1,258.88	Pottsville.....	37,042.34	18,833.58	Bald Knob.....	39,204.34	22,802.28
Hot Spring County.....	273,463.22	281,689.91	England.....	24,771.58	32,730.82	Russellville.....	364,419.36	350,918.11	Beebe.....	98,991.98	35,020.33
Donaldson.....	2,212.73	2,679.28	Humnoke.....	2,440.05	3,038.67	Prairie County.....	29,892.69	27,558.91	Bradford.....	10,271.35	5,682.81
Friendship.....	1,293.82	1,693.04	Keo.....	2,199.48	2,550.32	Biscoe.....	2,478.54	2,911.88	Garner.....	3,843.30	2,017.40
Magnet Cove.....	36.76	3,723.05	Lonoke.....	36,471.80	46,524.26	Des Arc.....	11,723.56	11,824.94	Georgetown.....	1,678.06	895.04
Malvern.....	75,850.31	74,140.39	Ward.....	34,942.49	27,999.20	DeValls Bluff.....	4,226.49	4,789.93	Griffithville.....	3,044.87	1,861.12
Midway.....	2,859.64	2,810.78	Madison County.....	155,941.58	149,878.27	Hazen.....	10,023.40	10,014.19	Higginson.....	8,403.83	2,685.13
Perla.....	1,771.65	945.14	Hindsville.....	328.99	429.01	Ulm.....	1,160.75	1,254.07	Judsonia.....	27,322.60	14,079.17
Rockport.....	5,550.20	6,509.16	Huntsville.....	12,652.66	11,703.34	Pulaski County.....	829,661.53	976,203.68	Kensett.....	22,301.95	12,722.40
Howard County.....	308,115.29	308,957.14	St. Paul.....	609.44	932.38	Alexander.....	4,016.25	3,135.34	Letona.....	3,450.85	1,427.81
Dierks.....	15,094.15	15,991.30	Marion County.....	78,422.72	75,526.91	Cammack Village.....	13,069.82	15,148.08	McRae.....	9,229.33	4,695.42
Mineral Springs.....	16,093.33	16,093.34	Bull Shoals.....	13,510.41	14,207.47	Jacksonville.....	482,698.55	545,330.96	Pangburn.....	8,133.18	4,645.70
Nashville.....	61,642.24	63,419.16	Flippin.....	9,388.00	9,639.77	Little Rock.....	3,293,391.40	3,338,283.71	Rose Bud.....	6,522.78	3,047.41
Tollette.....	3,197.35	4,212.34	Pyatt.....	1,531.18	1,797.24	Maumelle.....	292,079.93	192,440.80	Russell.....	2,923.07	1,619.60
Independence County.....	497,880.19	502,349.96	Summit.....	4,184.76	4,162.79	North Little Rock.....	1,060,289.46	1,101,617.40	Searcy.....	309,331.34	134,455.34
Batesville.....	122,862.04	121,954.36	Yellville.....	8,341.81	9,320.10	Sherwood					

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CITY ADMINISTRATOR—The City of Lebanon, Missouri is accepting qualified candidates to fill the position of City Administrator. The City operates under the mayor-council form of government and will oversee approximately 160 full-time employees with an annual operating budget of \$50M. The City provides the following services: fire, police, electric distribution, water/ wastewater, parks, code enforcement, and civic attractions for a population of 13,055. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or a related field; Master's degree preferred, plus a minimum of three years experience in Business Administration. Any equivalent combination of education and experience will also be considered. The ideal candidate will possess a strong professional and public service ethic, excellent communication, financial, and management skills. Salary is based on experience, education, and training. The City offers an excellent benefit and relocation package. Residency is required within six months of employment. Interested candidates should request a candidate package and submit a letter of interest, résumé, list of references and salary history to the following: Kathy Milliken, Human Resource Director, PO Box 111, Lebanon, MO 65536. Résumés must be postmarked by July 15, 2011. Visit www.lebanonmissouri.org for additional information. EOE

FOR SALE—Huntsville has for sale a 1998 Stepp OJK Crack Sealing Kettle Pumping System with electric wand, electric overnight heater and propane fired Kubota diesel engine. Like new with 21 hours of use. Comes with pallet of asphalt filler. Sells new for \$29,000. Asking \$22,000. Call Jason Polley at 479-738-1009 or 479-738-6846 or City Hall at 479-738-6607.

FOR SALE—Jacksonville Wastewater Utility will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of the following items: One 1987 Cat D4H Dozer; One 1987 International Dump Truck; and One 1998 Hp 450C Plotter. Sealed bids will be opened and read aloud at 10:00 am, Monday, June 27th, 2011. Items may be viewed, and bid forms obtained, at the Utility located at 248 Cloverdale Road, Jacksonville, AR or call 501-982-0581. The Utility reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

FOR SALE—Warren has for sale four 2001 Crown Victoria police cruisers with fully equipped partition, console, bar light and siren. Cars are in good shape and were well maintained. Asking \$4,500 each. Contact Chief Randy Peek, 870-226-3703.

POLICE OFFICER—Fordyce is accepting applications for a full-time police officer. Certification preferred. Must be self-disciplined, motivated, reliable. Applicant should possess excellent communication and writing skills. Applications and job description may be obtained 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday from Chief Jimmy Vaughan, Fordyce Police Department, 101 S. Main St., Fordyce, AR 71742; 870-352-2178. Applications accepted until position filled. EOE.

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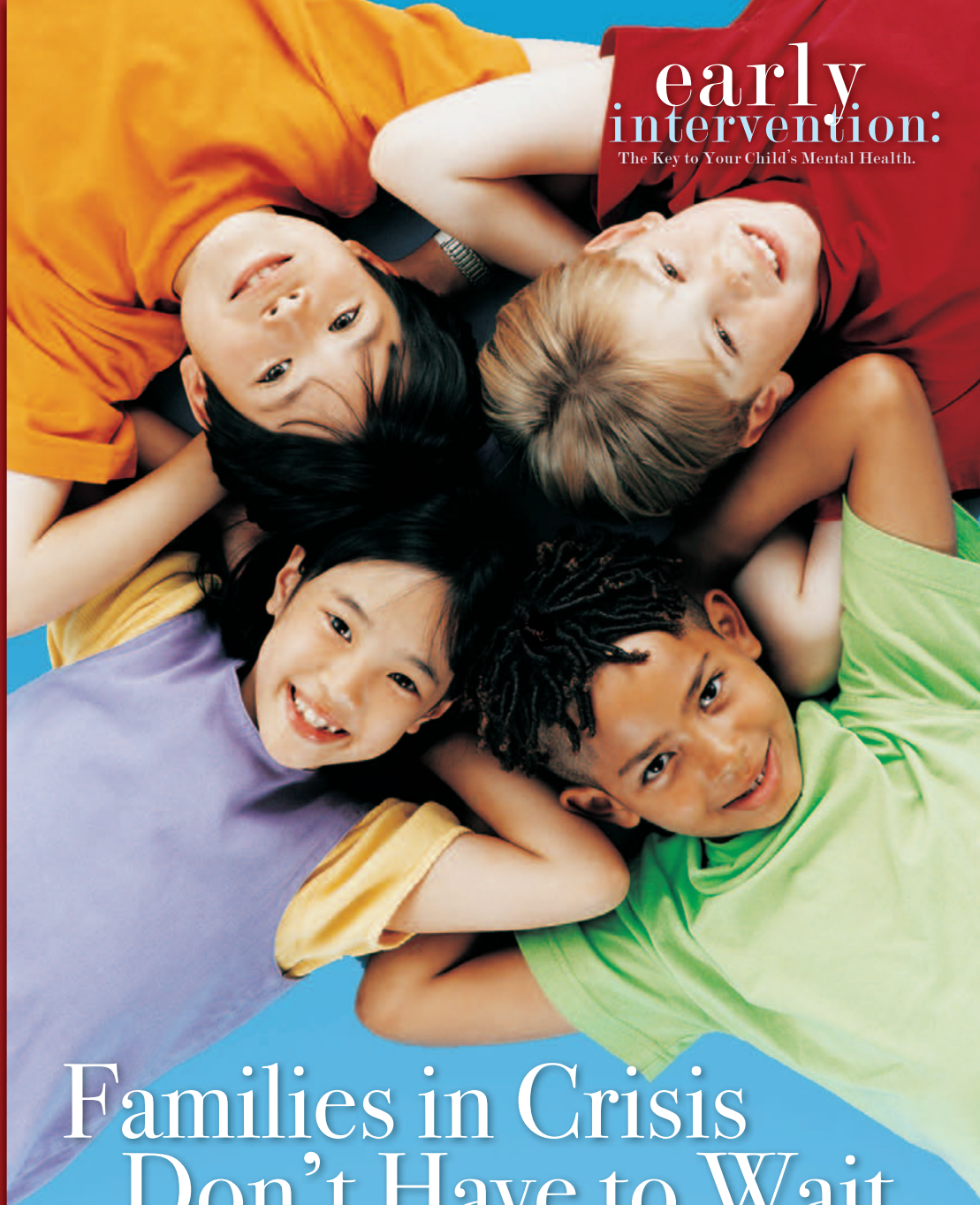
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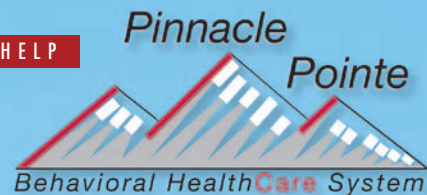
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Pinnacle Pointe offers Acute, Residential, and Outpatient services and free, confidential assessment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as a community service. David Streett, M.D., Medical Director suggests that parents seek help if a child exhibits:

Aggression toward other children • An inability to cope with feelings • Frequent crying
• Pleas for help • Fears of everyday things and/or possible disasters such as the deaths
of family members • No interest in playing • Isolation • Discussions of death and dying;
statements like "I wish I were dead." • Trouble sleeping • Sexually provocative behavior
• Self-mutilation • Harm to animals • Unusual weight gain or loss • Drug or alcohol use

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WHERE TO GO FOR HELP



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Pictured: Nick Papan, Ron Pyle, Jim Fowler, Carmen Quinn

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