

Hot Springs Village County Government Issues

2010-2012



Hot Springs Village
Property Owners' Association
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Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE AT A GLANCE

Hot Spring Village, established in 1970, is America's largest gated community. The Village covers 40.6 square miles and is comprised of 26,000 acres. It is located in Garland and Saline Counties 12 miles north of Hot Springs, Arkansas. There are 34,000 property owners. Currently there is a population of approximately 14,000 individuals, with over 8,000 private residences. Home prices range from \$80,000 to more than \$1 million. Volunteering is a major activity. There are over 200 social clubs and civic organizations.

The Property Owners Association, a private, tax-exempt home owners association, is the governing body of Hot Springs Village, and is responsible for all Village amenities including fire and police protection, a public works department that maintains roads, water, sewer and sanitation services for Hot Springs Village, as well as the recreation and golf amenities available within Hot Springs Village.

Hot Springs Village makes substantial contributions to the local economy, school districts, and County, State and Federal Governments. Currently there are **8,000** dwellings, housing **14,000** full-time residents in HSV. Collectively, these property owners and/or residents contribute \$40M in federal revenue via income taxes, **\$11M** in state revenue via income tax, and **\$12.2M** (including **\$9M** specifically for schools) in county revenue for roads, libraries, schools, and governmental operations. Its makeup and services are not unlike many incorporated areas/municipalities within the state of Arkansas and throughout the country.

The Village generates employment opportunities and therefore millions of dollars in income, spending and taxes. Additional household spending generates more jobs and additional millions of dollars to the economic region.



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HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE KEY CONTACTS

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Saline County

1. Establish an early voting center near the East Gate entrance to Hot Springs Village

RECOMMENDATION:

The community of Hot Springs Village (HSV) recommends the Saline County Board of Election Commissioners (Board) establish a satellite early voting center in the vicinity of the East Gate entrance to HSV to facilitate voting by Villagers and those in nearby communities prior to the 2012 primary and general elections.

BACKGROUND:

Since its inception in 1995, early voting in the State of Arkansas has become an increasingly popular and convenient means for voters to declare their choices among candidates at all levels of government, and to express their preferences on a myriad of issues. During the 2008 general election, 17,460 Saline County residents out of a total of 26,517 voters exercised their right to vote early. Yet in HSV, in the recent 2010 primary, only 331 voters out of a total of 2,153 voted early. Undoubtedly, the need to drive 20 miles of hilly, curvy highway to access an early voting site was a factor in such a low early voting turnout.

Saline County has aggressively sought to enhance total voter turnout through this popular and convenient method by establishing a free-standing early voting center in its county seat of Benton, and has initiated a plan for establishing early voting satellite sites in population centers throughout the county. Prior to the 2010 primary election, the Saline County Board of Election Commissioners announced the establishment of its first satellite early voting center in the heavily populated Salem area and, at the same time, declared its intent to establish additional centers to serve voters in future elections.

The community of Hot Springs Village has petitioned the Board to establish an early voting center outside but near the East Gate entrance to HSV to serve Village voters and those residing in nearby communities. Further, HSV has pledged its support in identifying and obtaining an economically and geographically suitable location and staffing such a facility.

While HSV recognizes other Saline County communities have petitioned the Board for satellite early voting centers, it believes its circumstances warrant establishment of a center near its east entrance prior to the 2012 primary and general elections. Particularly relevant to HSV's application is:

- **The site would serve a densely populated (approximately 9,000 residents) corner of Saline County located 20 miles from the nearest early voting site located in Benton.**
- **HSV is the third largest population center in Saline County.**
- **The voting precinct in which HSV lies is the largest in Saline County, boasting 4,902 registered voters.**
- **The HSV area has a growing, highly educated population that tends to exercise its right to vote. Some 2,153 Village residents voted in the 2010 primary election.**

- **The site could be expected to enhance voter interest and turnout among residents of HSV and the surrounding area for whom traveling to Benton is physically and logistically difficult. The average age of HSV residents is 55-years-old and many older residents have physical limitations making travel difficult or impossible.**
- **The site would demonstrate Saline County's commitment to providing necessary services to HSV and surrounding area.**
- **The site would provide HSV residents in Saline County with the same ease of voting accorded HSV residents residing in Garland County.**
- **HSV possesses a volunteer-oriented population capable of providing sufficient volunteers to assist in staffing a satellite early voting center.**

The establishment of a satellite early voting center near Hot Springs Village would enhance the area's quality of life and its desirability as a retirement relocation destination, thus positively impacting the economic development climate of the entire county. It is our recommendation that such a center be established prior to the 2012 primary election.

GARLAND COUNTY

1. Reconstruction of Glazier Peau Road from Hot Springs Village's Glazier Peau Gate to SH 7, including replacement of the one lane bridge near the gate.

RECOMMENDATION:

The community of Hot Springs Village (HSV) recommends the Garland County Highway Departments (Garland County) set as a priority the reconstruction of Glazier Peau Road from the Glazier Peau Gate of Hot Springs Village to SH 7, including replacement of the one-lane bridge near the gate.

BACKGROUND

Glazier Peau Road and the identification card activated gate from HSV which allows access to it form a primary route that Villagers travel to access the businesses and service located along SH 7 corridor on HSV's west side. Each year, nearly 414,000 automobiles pass through HSV's Glazier Peau gate and down Glazier Peau road for shopping, medical appointments and even trips to Hot Springs.

While the route does provide convenient access to the SH 7 corridor the frequent poor condition of the road surface, the narrow driving surface and the presence of a one-lane bridge near the gate itself create an impediment to commerce, a safety hazard and a threat to public safety. Therefore, it is our recommendation that Garland County accept as a priority the re-engineering of Glazier Peau Road, including replacement of the one-lane bridge with one that can accommodate two automobiles simultaneously.