



NLR Neighborhood News

#NLRStrong

Why Have A Neighborhood Organization?

Over the years, many North Little Rock residents have formed groups to address issues in their neighborhoods. Do you know if your neighborhood has such a group? Whether it is a neighborhood crime watch, a property owners association, a community development corporation (CDC), or one of the many other ways to organize a group, neighbors who organize and have regular meetings make strong neighborhoods whose voices get heard.

In the three decades that Neighborhood Services has worked with North Little Rock residents, there have been many times that a strong neighborhood group has made a difference. In the late 1990s the Argenta CDC formed to revitalize a neighborhood that was suffering from blight and crime. The group worked tirelessly for years and their hard work transformed the Argenta neighborhood into the vibrant, historic, and still growing destination that we know today. A more recent example of success is the Dark Hollow CDC. This group has been able to purchase property in their neighborhood and sell it to developers to build single family homes. By partnering with both private developers and groups like Habitat for Humanity they have ensured that new housing is affordable for many different people. These steps have begun the process of stabilizing their neighborhood with long-term residents which will increase property values and make their community an even more welcoming place.

A neighborhood group that is organized and meets regularly will help residents be prepared to face crises and issues that can sometimes arise overnight. In 2023, when a tornado tore through central Arkansas and destroyed many homes, the Amboy Neighborhood Association was able to immediately start taking action to help residents. They worked with city officials to secure their neighborhood from vandalism and to start debris removal. They also worked with local businesses and organizations to establish places where victims of the tornado could come get help, such as food, water, and clothing. Additionally, there was an established network of communication in place before disaster struck that enabled residents to ask for help where it was needed and give help where they were able.

Neighborhood groups can take many different forms and can address many different issues. They are established by residents volunteering their time and meeting to discuss issues. Whether they are addressing an issue as simple as litter pickup or as serious as working with the police department to resolve crimes, these groups can have a major impact on their neighborhoods. Please consider attending your neighborhood group's meetings and if your neighborhood doesn't have such a group, consider meeting with your neighbors to start one. The office of Neighborhood Services is here to assist and guide you and we'll be happy to speak with you about starting a group.



The Root Connection

Urban Gardening For Zone 8a - March/April Edition

Rachelle Kelly, North Little Rock Garden Program Manager

Urban gardens thrive when we work with our climate, our soil, and our schedules. Zone 8a gives us a generous growing window-but spring success is built on thoughtful prep, not just planting.

Think in Microclimates (Not Just Zones)

Cities create heat pockets and cool shadows. Take 10 minutes to map your yard or balcony:

- Morning sun vs. afternoon sun (tomatoes love the latter; greens prefer the former).
- Heat-reflecting surfaces (brick walls, fences, driveways).
- Cold sinks where frost lingers (low spots, north-facing corners).

Pro tip: Keep a simple sketch. This one habit can boost yields more than adding fertilizer.

Soil Upgrade Without the Heavy Lifting

Instead of turning beds, try top-dressing:

- Add 1–2 inches of finished compost and let earthworms do the work.
- Sprinkle a light layer of leaf mold or aged wood chips to improve moisture retention.

This method protects soil structure, reduces weeds, and is easier on backs and knees.

Perennial Vegetables: Plant Once, Harvest for Years

If you're short on time, perennials are your ally. Consider:

- Egyptian walking onions
- Garlic chives
- Asparagus (great for sunny fence lines)
- Jerusalem artichokes (best in contained areas)

They anchor your garden, return earlier each spring, and reduce yearly replanting.

Build a Pollinator Corridor-Even in Small Spaces

Pollinators don't need big gardens-just connected food sources:

- Choose native plants with staggered bloom times.
- Let one herb (like basil or dill) flower.
- Avoid pesticides, even organic ones, during bloom.

A single flowering pot can become a pit stop for bees and butterflies.

Water Smarter, Not More

As temperatures rise, efficient watering matters:

- Water early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Aim at the soil, not leaves.
- Mulch now to save water later.

City reminder: If you use rain barrels, keep them screened to prevent mosquitoes.

The Invisible Helpers: Mycorrhizal Fungi

Healthy soil hosts beneficial fungi that extend plant roots and improve nutrient uptake.

- Avoid over-tilling.
- Reduce synthetic fertilizers.
- Add compost to feed soil life.

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The Root Connection continued.

Think of it as strengthening your garden's underground support network.

Spring Pruning-What to Leave Alone

Not everything wants a haircut:

- Prune summer-flowering shrubs now.
- Wait on spring bloomers (azaleas, lilacs) until after flowering.
- Leave last year's stems on natives until temperatures stay above 50°F-many beneficial insects overwinter there.

Urban gardening is less about perfection and more about observation, adaptation, and enjoyment. Every season teaches us something new-if we're paying attention.

Happy growing from your City Community Garden Program: nlr.ar.gov/communitygardens

North Little Rock Board & Commission Meetings

Advertising & Promotion Commission

Quarterly-3rd Wednesday, 2:30 pm
600 Main Street, Suite 100

Airport Commission

3rd Thursday, 12:00 pm
City Services Bldg.
700 West 29th Street

Central Arkansas Water Commission

2nd Thursday, 2:00 pm
CAW Office
3rd Floor Board Room
221 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR

City Beautiful Commission

3rd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Services Office
3427 North Magnolia Street

City Council

2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00 pm
NLR City Hall, 300 Main Street

Civil Service Commission

2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
City Services, 700 W. 29th St.

Community Garden Manager

March 17 & April 28, 5:00- 6:30 pm
North Heights Com. Ctr.
Contact: 501-791-8500

History Commission

2nd Tuesday, 5:30 pm
506 Main Street

Historic District Commission

2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm
506 Main Street

Housing Authority Board of Commissions

1st Monday, 5:00 pm
4901 Fairway Avenue, Suite A

Library Commission

3rd Monday, 5:30 pm
Laman Library, 28th & Orange Sts.

MEMS Board

4th Tuesday, 7:30 pm
MEMS Admin Bldg.,
1121 W. 7th, Little Rock

Parks & Recreation Commission

3rd Monday, 5:00 pm
2700 Willow Street

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday, 4:00 pm
City Hall, 300 Main Street

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Last Thursday of each month,
1:30 p.m. / City Hall
300 Main Street

Residential Housing Facilities Board/Public Facilities Board

Meetings are held on an on-call basis.
For more information
call, 501-372-0110

Rock Region METRO

3rd Tuesday, 12 Noon
Rock Region METRO Bldg.
901 Maple Street

Senior Citizen Commission

Every 4th Monday, 3:00 p.m.
401 West Pershing

Thomas Cemetery Committee

3rd Monday, 6:15 pm
Levy Baptist Church,
3501 Pike Ave.

Tree Board

Meets Quarterly
300 Main Street

Waste Water Treatment Commission

2nd Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.
Waste Water Administration
Building, Conference Room
7400 Baucum Pike, Gate 1

Questions? Contact the Following

All dates are evening meetings unless otherwise noted.



Amboy Crime Watch

Every 1st Thursday, 6:30
Burns Park Hospitality House,
Military Drive & Joe Poch Road
Paula Lively, 501-350-7649
pkele@aol.com

Amboy Neighborhood Assn.

Every 1st Thursday, 6:30
Burns Park Hospitality House
Military Drive & Joe Poch Rd.
Samantha Floyd, 501-231-7240
Amboynanews@aol.com

Argenta Neighborhood Boosters

Call for meeting information
John Pflasterer, 501-553-8671
argentaboosters@yahoo.com

Baring Cross Neighborhood Assn.

Call for meeting information
ACTS Church
13th & Franklin Sts.
Harlan Hunter, 501-541-1591

Cobblestone Crime Watch

Call for meeting information
Suni Mc Clelland, 501-920-5330
sunimcclellad@gmail.com

Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation

Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:30
1400 Pine Street
Belinda Burney, 501-376-8144

Dixie Addition Community Development Corporation

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
914 "H" Street
Lonnie Lucas, 501-952-6343

East Argenta Annex Neighborhood Watch Assn

Every 3rd Wednesday, 6:00
Sherman Park Rec. Center
624 North Beech Street
Rowney Torrance, 501-343-1960

Glenview Neighborhood Association Council

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00
Glenview Rec. Ctr, 4800 E 19th St.
Linda Robinson, 501-945-8820

HOLT Neighborhood Assn.

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30
Gardner Memorial United Methodist
Joy Cameron, 501-374-9520

Keep North Little Rock Beautiful

Every 2nd Monday, 6:00
Patrick H. Hays Senior Center
401 W. Pershing
Randy Naylor, 501-350-8775 or
Lisa Smith, 501-791-2568;
KNLRB@aol.com
or www.Facebook.com/KNLRB

Meadow Park Neighborhood Assn.

Call for meeting information
Michael Davis, 501-442-0744
nlrhs2006@gmail.com
nerdgang@yahoo.com

Melrose Outreach

Every 3rd Wednesday, 7:00
Melrose Grocery, 807 Willow St.
Tammy Small, 501-541-3703
TammyRSmall@att.net

Military Heights Outreach Assn.

Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30
North Little Rock Community Center
Lorraine Chism, 501-519-5957
Karen Alford, 501-681-5233

NAACP

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00
P.O. Box 5571
North Little Rock, AR 72119
Deborah F. Rhodes, Ph: 501-819-3890
nlrnaacp201@yahoo.com

Neighbors United for Levy

Every 1st Monday, 6:30
No. Heights Recreation, 4801 Allen
Jennifer Johansen, 501-772-0550

North Little Rock Landlords Assn

Every 3rd Monday, 7:00
NLR Community Ctr, 2700 Willow St.
Michelle Esentan, 501-779-3858
mmichelle777@yahoo.com

Park Hill Neighborhood

Call for meeting information
John Gregan, 501-758-7159
johngregan@att.net

Ridge Road Village Neighborhood Watch

Every 4th Thursday, 5:00
4748 Ridge Rd, Phone : 501-771-7500

Rose City Neighborhood Assn.

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
Rose City Recreation Center
400 Rose Lane
Ken Abel, 501-791-8500, Lv message
Nlrrosecityneighborhood@gmail.com

Scenic Hill Neighborhood Assn.

Call for meeting information
Randy Naylor, 501-350-8775

Stone Links Neighborhood Assn.

Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:00
Stone Links Clubhouse
Marie Hollowell, 404-259-2957

Willow Beach Estates Property Owners Assn

2nd Tuesday in March & October, 6:30
Church at Willow Beach
John Santoro, 501-607-1755

**City of North Little Rock
City Hall 300 Main Street**

Elected Officials

Mayor Terry Hartwick 501-975-8601
City Clerk, Diane Whitbey 501-975-8617
City Attorney, Amy Fields 501-975-3755

Council Members

Ward 1

Debi Ross 501-753-0733
Nathan Hamilton 501-952-7679

Ward 2

Linda Robinson 501-945-8820
Nicole Hart 501-960-2461

Ward 3

Steve Baxter 501-804-0928
Ron Harris 501-758-2877

Ward 4

Scott Fowler 501-765-5868
Vince Insalaco III 501-951-0786

NLR Neighborhood News

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Office Hours-
Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Comments? We would like to hear from you. If you have neighborhood meetings or activities to be placed in the newsletter, please mail, fax, email or call the information to us. Are you reading someone else's copy? If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, contact our office.

North Little Rock Neighborhood News is a bi-monthly publication. Please note the following deadlines for information to be published:

Issue	Deadline Date
May/June	April 1
July/August	June 1
Sept/October	August 1
Nov./December	October 1



**North Little Rock
City Wide Clean Up
May 2, 2026**

**For More Information Contact:
Keep NLR Beautiful
Randy Naylor, 501-350-8775**

**Remaining
North Little Rock
Holiday Schedule**

**Memorial Day
May 25**

**Juneteenth
June 19**

**Independence Day
July 4
(Observed on July 3)**

**Labor Day
September 7**

**Veteran's Day
November 11**

**Thanksgiving
November 26 & 27**

**Christmas Eve/Day
December 24 & 25**

**For additional sanitation
information, contact
NLR Sanitation
at 501-371-8340.**

Libraries continued.

Go to NLRLibrary.org for more information. Friend them @ NLRlibraries on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Threads. Laman Library is located at 2801 Orange Street and is open Monday – Thursday from 9 AM to 7 PM. The Argenta Branch is located at 420 Main Street, in the old post office building, and is open Monday – Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM. ROVER is the mobile branch and moves from place to place. Go to NLRLibrary.org for schedules and updated information.



**2026
Remaining
Recycling Weeks**

March 8 & 22

April 5 & 19

May 3 , 17 & 31

June 14 & 28

July 12 & 26

August 9 & 23

September 6 & 20

October 4 & 18

November 1, 15 & 29

December 13 & 27

For Recycling Holiday

Pick Up Questions?

**Call Waste Management
at (501) 565-0191.**

Exploring North Little Rock's Libraries



WILLIAM
F. LAMAN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
SYSTEM

If you think of the Laman Library, the Argenta Branch Library and the mobile library (ROVER) strictly as places to check out books, you are selling them short. This is the first of a two part series about our libraries and what they can offer. This installment will look at the types of events the library has held early in 2026. Since we go to print before the March and April library calendars we can only give you an idea of what you could be doing at the libraries with a free library card.

In February for adults 19 and older the library hosted: Quilting classes; yoga classes; puzzles put together get together; a city-wide book club; cooking classes; cardio aerobics, orientation for Habitat for Humanity; arts and crafts classes; music bingo; scanning classes; film clubs; K-pop meetup for tweens and up; a free legal clinic; resume workshops; nail care classes; knitting for beginners; various book clubs; sewing classes; garden programs; typing classes; early voting; assorted black history month events; a workshop on hanging picture frames; a community sing and play along; theatre workshop; a bird feeding station workshop; crochet classes; an adult spelling bee; and a video game showdown. The Argenta Branch also participated in Argenta's third Friday art walk.

For teens ages 13 to 18 the libraries offered: Café Mondays; Post it Note art show; teens tai-

loring workshop; K-Pop meet up; a Solo RPG Kit: Hawker; Pokemon Club; Ramen Bar; Valentine's crafting; Tech Deck; Arkansas Driver's Test Study Group; Fiber Arts club; theatre workshop; ROVER doll tea party; printmaking classes; teen tech tools; ROVER crazy community night at Lakewood Village; Saturday Showdown – Halo 2.

For kids & tweens ages 12 and under the libraries offered: Valentine's Day crafts; baby story time; tiny chef classes; story times; color or paint; memory quilts; stay and play lego blocks; baby time; bilingual story time; plush party; stuffed animal scavenger hunt; a backpack making class; writing club; make and take; tween anime club – Fire Force; dance party; scavenger hunts; dungeons and dragons session; music and movement story time; assorted black history month events; tot spot; typing classes; kindergarten readiness group; ROVER cozy community night at Lakewood Village; and an all-day activity pack.

Arkansas Community Advocates and Potluck Food Rescue provide free food distribution on Thursdays. ACA distributes at 9 AM at Laman Library and Potluck distributes at Argenta at 10:30 AM.

Of course you can also check out books, music, movies. Information on services provided and other items you can borrow will be in the next installment.

Continued on page 5.

Please notify Neighborhood Services of any address change. Bulk rate mail will not be forwarded.



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North Little Rock, AR 72119-5757

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