

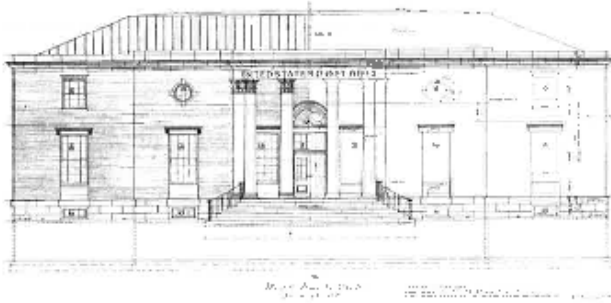
North Little Rock e-Newsletter

Provided by Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector

April 2014

North Little Rock e-Newsletter

If you have information you would like to share with other city employees, residents and businesses throughout **North Little Rock**, then let us know. The **City Clerk's office** provides a monthly *e-letter* to those who subscribe through the **North Little Rock** website. To sign up, email Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov.



A ribbon cutting will be held at the old North Little Rock Post Office located at 420 Main Street on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

The original building was designed in 1931 by the firm of Thompson, Sanders, and Ginocchio in the Colonial Revival style.

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs selects North Little Rock site for new State Veterans Home

After a thorough and lengthy review of more than 30 proposed locations, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs selected Fort Roots as the site of the new State Veterans Home.



Act 165 of the 89th Arkansas General Assembly provided "The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) authority to establish and maintain a Veterans' Home at a location selected by the ADVA Director after seeking advised from the Arkansas Veteran's Commission and the Arkansas Veterans' Home Task Force."

"This was a difficult selection process, as many communities submitted worthy sites for the new Veterans' home," said Governor Mike Beebe. "Director (Cissy) Rucker and her team worked diligently and fairly through this process, and I'm confident that their selection of North Little Rock will provide the setting and care our Veterans deserve."

The Task Force met monthly from May 2013 until October 2013. While much valuable information and advise was passed from members and potential site representatives, a unanimous site recommendation was not made.

The Commission reviewed a second, more detailed round of proposals. After a December 2013 meeting, they visited four sites (Searcy, two in Jacksonville

and Fort Roots). During its January meeting, the Fort Roots, North Little Rock, site was recommended.

Additional input was solicited from Veteran Service Organizations through the Task Force and Arkansas Veterans Coalition representatives.

The Fort Roots site was selected based on the following key project drivers:

- Access to a workforce estimated at more than 200,000
- Immediate access to VA Health facilities. Eugene Towbin Veterans Healthcare Center, directly across the street, and John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital (7 miles).
- Access to Vets Center (3 miles).
- Accessibility to the largest Veteran population within the state.
- Availability of approximately 34 acres.
- Prior use was a military post and golf course.
- Veteran friendly environment.
- Utility infrastructure onsite.
- Located only 9 miles away, this location will serve as a replacement for the former Arkansas Veterans Home in Little Rock that closed in November 2012 because of disrepair.

In addition to these key drivers, this central location provides the following:

- Nearby access to I-40, I-30, I-430, I-530 and Highway 67167.
- Accessible public transportation as well as DAV vans and VA Shuttle service.

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"Where's Mel"? Be the 1st person to call 975-8617 and tell us where you found him hiding and win a prize!

**North Little Rock
Animal Control**
For more information call
501-791-8577

**Is Your Pet
Making You
Sick?
6 Zoonotic
Diseases**

Found at www.lifescrpt.com

By Shanna Thompson, Special to *Lifescrpt*
Published March 7, 2014

Zoonotic diseases. It's a strange phrase, and an even stranger concept—diseases that spread from animals to humans—but some diseases from pets can even be deadly. Find out how to keep both of you safe from the most common pet illnesses.

For many of us, pets are family. We talk to them, watch TV together, let them sleep on our beds.

But close contact can expose you to serious ailments that can spread from animals to humans.

That doesn't mean you should ban pets from your home. The key to keeping yourself healthy is awareness and prevention, says Margaret Lewin, M.D., Medical Director of Cinergy Health and primary care internist in New York.

"Having pets can be safe for you, your family and the pet if you do your homework carefully beforehand—learning about the specific types of pet, potential risks, how to prevent health problems," she says.

Below is information on how to avoid getting 6 diseases from pets:

Toxoplasmosis. One of the most common parasitic cat diseases. It's caused by a microscopic critter called *Toxoplasma gondii*. It is transmitted by cats who eat infected birds, rodents and other small animals and pass the parasites' eggs in their feces.

When you clean the litter box or do gardening where cats roam, you can accidentally ingest the infected feces, says veterinarian Eileen Ng, BVMS, Western Veterinary Group, Lomita, Calif.

Kids face additional risk if they play in sandboxes that cats use as a bathroom. You, and your cat, can also get toxoplasmosis by eating uncooked meats (such as lamb, pork or beef) from an infected animal, Ng says.

In your pets, cats usually don't show obvious symptoms. It rarely causes significant medical problems in healthy animals. However, some will have fever, vomiting or diarrhea. If so, ask your vet to do a blood test for toxoplasmosis. It's treated with antibiotics, such as clindamycin, and drugs that prevent the parasite from reproducing.

In humans, most healthy adults don't develop a serious illness from it. They may not even know they have it, says Janet Horn, M.D. *Lifescrpt* women's health expert. Symptoms, if noticed at all, are similar to the flu or mononucleosis: severe fatigue, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes and blurred or reduced vision, eye pain and redness. They can last a month or more, but go away without treatment.

For young children, the elderly or anyone with a weakened immune system, it can be dangerous. If the body

cannot fight the parasite, it damages the brain, eyes and other organs.

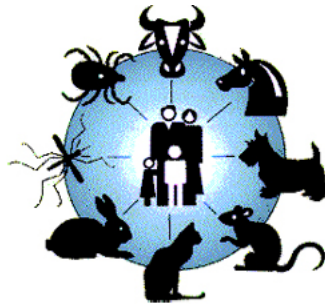
You can protect yourself by cleaning the litter box daily. If pregnant or immune-suppressed, have someone else clean it. Wear gloves when cleaning the litter box or gardening and wash hands thoroughly afterwards. Keep your cat indoors to reduce exposure risk. Do not feed cats raw meat. Keep kids sandboxes covered.

Ringworm. This is a fungal infection, not an actual worm, Ng says. The disease is transmitted by petting an infected animal, most commonly a cat.

"It can go either way," Ng notes. "You can give an animal ringworm, or they can give it to you." Pets typically get ringworms through contact with an infected animal. With people, the disease is transmitted by touching an infected person's skin or contaminated items like unwashed clothing, shower surfaces and combs, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In pets, fur loss is common because the infection damages hair follicles. This is often the only sign of infection, Ng says. Vets check for ringworm using a black light. If fur glows green, Fluffy has it. Even if the black-light test is negative, they'll do a fungal culture to double-check.

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Need a new
addition to your
family?

Call
501-791-8577
...we've got the

perfect companion for you!



North Shore Animal League America's Tour For Life
Saturday, April 5, 2014—Lakewood Village Shopping Center
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



Support spaying and neutering in Arkansas by getting your own
Arkansas Specialty *Please Spay or Neuter* License Plate
at any State Revenue Office.



North Little Rock Fire Department

2014 North Little Rock Public Safety Awards

Dedicated to the memory of Officer Jake Harrell NLRPD

**North Little Rock Police Department
Achievement Award**
Mrs. Judy Prince

Team Achievement Award
Sergeant Robert Griffin
Investigator Chip Goree
Investigator John Alston
Investigator Paul Cantrell
Investigator John Desizlets
Investigator Robert Branch
Investigator Mark Tozer
Investigator Shane Maddison
Officer Phil Lowry
Officer Rick Beaston
Officer William Scott
Officer Raul Dallas
Officer Jacob House

Team Achievement Award
Lieutenant Tom Latina
Sergeant Kara Browning

Achievement Award
Officer Tommy Norman

Merit Award
Investigator Michael Gibbons

Leadership Award
Sergeant Larry Behnke

Leadership Award
Investigator Julie Eckert

Chief's Award
Officer Karl Sorrells

Award photos on next page...

**North Little Rock Fire Department
Apprenticeship Firefighter of the Year**
Firefighter Aaron Henderson

Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter Sean Mahanay

Emergency Medical Firefighter of the Year
Lt. Jeff Jeffries

Fire Service Educator of the Year
Captain Beau Buford

Fire Officer of the Year
Captain Benny Mundy

Chief's Award
Lieutenant Josh Cox

**North Little Rock Emergency Services
Dispatcher of the Year**
Mary Denton

Prayer for Emergency Responders

*Let's lift up our emergency services personnel
and their families, departments and concerns.*

Also, thanksgiving and appreciation

for them and their work,

acts of courage and heroism.



Found on the internet



Highlights from some City Departments



Mayor Joe A. Smith holds a monthly department head meeting. Department heads provide a report of activities, projects and accomplishments. Below are a few highlights from the last meeting (February events).

Central Arkansas Water—water sales were up \$1.0M from last year.

Laman Library—relocation to post office site underway. Ribbon cutting April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours April 10 from 5—7 p.m. Summer reading program will partner with Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to fee children breakfast and lunch prior to library programs (Monday-Friday).



Neighborhood Services—Mailed 8 neighborhood group newsletters to 4,520 individual households. All mailings to Levy and Park Hill included Jumpstart information. All others included changes in Sanitation pickup. Conducted survey to list all gravel driveways and parking pads in Park Hill Historic Parking District. Survey started in Lakewood Parking District.

Hays Senior Center—1,546 hours of Volunteer Service in various city departments. Enrolled 105 new members. Took 14 trips (transported 125 people).

IT—104 work orders, 23 web postings, 42 software requests, multiple ongoing projects in majority of city departments.

Utilities Accounting—

Bad debt February: \$5,476
Adjusted projected bad debt write-offs 2014: \$300,000
New accounts installed: 1,017
Accounts finaled: 942
Customer related calls—7,480, direct contact with Customer Service—1,994, inside teller payments received—8,673, drive-thru teller payments—4,926.

Street Department—repaired potholes citywide, chipped downed tree limbs, salted and cleared sidewalks at city buildings. Cleaned ditch 1112 W. 39th, cleaned alleys between Percy Machin to Main and 13th to 22nd. Work on base at ATV park. Hauled picnic tables for A&P to RV Park at river. Removed stump at old Depot.



Sanitation—Garbage crews collected and disposed of 1,339.62 tons (2,679,240

lbs) of household garbage/rubbish. Yard Waste crews collected and disposed of 124 loads (1,368.0 cubic yards of mixed debris and 2,583.0 cubic yards of green waste. Loose leaf crews collected 55 loads (2,017.0 cubic yards) of mulched leaves. Picked up 225 tires. Office staff logged 809 calls. Issued 56 Sanitation Code Violation letters and 3 Citations for non-compliance.

Traffic—Service request work order (Sign Shop) 92. Trouble reports—32, Posts replaced—53. Approved Barricade Applications—95. City vehicles marked with decals (logo) 113. Made signs for several city departments. Installed school safety lights and markings 16th Street west of Pike.



Traffic study associated with upcoming AHTD Broadway Bridge Replacement Project (Bridge will be closed approximately 18 months). Consulted with NLR School District/Consultant on Main Street Pedestrian Crossing.

Police—Property Crime down 36%, Burglaries and Breaking and Entering Buildings down 55%. Theft from motor vehicles was down almost 40%. Narcotics seized over \$160,000 in US currency and 6 kilo's of cocaine in area of 16th and 18th Street. Officers met with residents of Northridge Healthy Care and Rehab center and handed out stuffed bears and valentines cards to 150 residents. Met with AR Spinal Cord Foundation re: issue of persons parking in handicapped spots who are not handicapped. Department will step up efforts to issue citations.

Fire—Total Incidents: 791

Residential Fires: 11
Vehicle Fires: 4
Rescue/EMS: 447
Other Responses: 446
Total Responses: 1,363
Other Structure Fires: 0
False Alarms/Malfunctions: 50
Haz Mat Responses: 8
Total Fire Losses: \$146,528.00
Total Value: \$794,528.00
Total Saved: \$603,000.00
Training: 3,354 hours
Building Inspections: 198
Construction began on new fire boat.



Office of Emergency Services/911—

Calls for service: 18,282
CAD incidents: 8,462

Continued on next page...

Fit 2 Live—working on Wellness Testing and results based incentive project. Awarded \$15,305.00 in Community Garden Grants. 80 people attended Park Hill Jump Start Grant Community Design Presentation.

Electric Department—38,399—customers, Peak Power—142,164 KW, Territory— 60 square miles, miles of wire—544.8 miles, # Transformers—11,248, Street lights—10,987 (126 repaired), Smart meters 28,608—Revenue \$7,132,659.00. 1 major outage (over 1,000—North Hills to McCain).



City Clerk/Collector—1% Hotel—\$21,431.93; 2% Hotel/Motel—\$43,060.66; Mixed Drink Tax—\$28,215.69; Restaurant Tax—\$413,635.00. Issued 36 new business licenses, processed 1,006 renewals, 75 accounts under review. Staff conducted 9 onsite account reviews. Billed less than 800 2014 accounts for renewals (all renewals must be paid by March 31 to avoid 25% penalty).



Code Enforcement—155 assigned calls, 464 initiated calls, 90 citations, 213 notices, 95 vehicles tagged, 129 structures inspected, 8 food service inspections, 6 search warrants, 2 houses demolished by city, 8 houses demolished by owner. Secured 6 vacant houses, mowed 0 vacant lots, mowed 0 with structures, picked up 83 tires.



Animal Control—NLR



Incoming Animals—141, Adopted 54, Reclaimed 21, Euthanized 68, Citations issued 73, Vouchers (spay/neuter) Dogs 42, Cats 15,

Calls for Service 540

Pulaski County Incoming Animals—90, Adopted 42, Reclaimed 4, Euthanized 30
Chili Supper Fund Raiser raised \$3,600.00 to be used for low-cost spay/neuter fund. Pulaski County paid \$69.44 for each (county) animal housed in February.

External Affairs—plans underway for 2014 Summer Youth Exchange with Sister City Uiwang City, South Korea. Dates are July 23—August 2. Host families are being contacted. Hosted Mayor's Business Lunch with several small business owners in Park Hill. Salvation Army team won Community Garden Grant.

Parks and Recreation—Goose Harassment Dog Shep chasing approximately 85-100 geese per day. Remote controlled boat will be used in water.

New Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statements have been completed and await approval. Afterschool Programs and Club Eco Feeding Program underway at Sherman Park, North Heights and Glenview Community Centers. Activities included sport stacking, creating an edible arrangement, paper mache, soccer skills and drills. A Healthy Heart Challenge was held and consisted of jump rope and hoops. Participants received a certificate and healthy snacks. VITA offered free tax help at North Little Rock Community Center to 200 filers. More than 35 teams from Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Oklahoma participated in the Little Rock Lacrosse's 3rd Annual Lacrosse fest at the Burns Park Soccer Complex.

**Finance—
Revenues (MTD—January)**

Taxes	\$ 179,664.02
Licenses/Permits	\$ 746,768.51
Fines/Forfeitures	\$ 263,952.90
Local Option Sales Tax	\$2,480,642.20
Intergovernmental-State	0.00
Franchises	\$ 350,532.02
Investment/Misc	\$ 26,897.69
User Fees	\$ 87,846.98
Utility Transfer	\$ 47,246.44
Grants & Other	\$ 70,924.13
Transfer from Electric	\$ 923,080.00
Total Revenue:	\$5,177,554.89

Expenditures

Administration	\$ 72,509.39
Animal Shelter	\$ 59,385.28
Special Appropriations	\$ 434,271.30
City Clerk	\$ 18,776.42
Emergency Services	\$ 113,045.67
Finance	\$ 57,430.42
Fire	\$1,015,329.83
Health	\$ 23,939.95
Legal	\$ 33,295.94
1st Court	\$ 39,871.76
2nd Court	\$ 36,405.96
Public Defender	\$ 924.93
Human Resources	\$ 45,324.24
Commerce	\$ 18,304.93
Planning	\$ 51,310.88
Police	\$1,562,484.54
Code Enforcement	\$ 69,784.91
Public Works	\$ 46,646.17
Neighborhood Services	\$ 12,814.93
Sanitation	\$ 366,894.36
Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 67,915.88
Senior Citizens Center	\$ 74,962.61
Communications	\$ 6,319.74
Fit 2 Live	\$ 8,319.73

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Topical shampoo can help, but oral antifungal medication is the best treatment, Ng says.

In humans, the disease causes a ring-like patch on your scalp or skin, says Robin Miller. Skin patches are itchy, raised and have sharply defined red edges. On the scalp, it shows up as bald spots. And it leaves nails discolored, thick and crumbly. Skin ringworms show up 4 to 10 days after the disease is transmitted and is treated with over-the-counter antifungal cream or pills containing clotrimazole. Scalp ringworm usually takes 10-14 days after contact to show up and you'll need to see a doctor for treatment.

See your doctor and/or vet immediately if you or your pet have symptoms. Bleach all bedding your cat has been on to kill fungus. Clean all surfaces your pet has touched with diluted bleach.

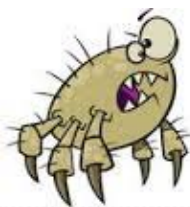
Roundworm. Unlike ringworm, roundworm actually is a worm—an intestinal parasite. If you pet an infected animal that has licked its backside and then its coat, you could accidentally ingest feces. If your pet's stool contains what looks like spaghetti, ask your vet to test a fecal sample for eggs, Ng says. If found, an oral dewormer medication can kill them. Go back for a retest to make sure worms are gone.

In humans, if you swallow worm eggs, they hatch in your intestine, Dr. Miller explains. Hatched eggs can migrate to the throat and enter lungs, where they're coughed up and re-swallowed. Eggs then land back in the intestine, where they grow, reproduce and release more eggs. In many people, this disease has few or no symptoms. But it can resemble pneumonia, particularly in the elderly or those with compromised immunity. Within 2-3 months, roundworm can also cause severe abdominal pain, vomiting, fatigue, restlessness and disturbed sleep. If you have it, you'll find eggs and/or worms in your stool, Dr. Miller says.

Fortunately, this zoonotic disease can be cleared up with anthelmintics, medicine that kills the worms.

You can protect yourself by not letting infected pets lick you or your children. Wash your hands after petting an animal. Deworm your pet regularly—the vet can prescribe a topical or oral wormer. Keep your pet from eating other animals' feces. Test new puppies and kittens.

Giardia. A microscopic parasite that causes gastrointestinal problems. The parasite is transmitted if you accidentally swallow it after picking up pet objects (toys or a leash) which are contaminated with feces from an infested dog. Dogs ingest eggs by eating other animal's feces or licking that dog's backside. Once an animal or human is infected, the parasite lives in the intestine and is passed through the feces. It can survive outside the body up to several months.



Giardia typically causes diarrhea in dogs, but they might not show symptoms, Ng says. Your vet will test a fecal sample for eggs. If positive, it's treated with oral dewormer medication. In humans, some people don't show any symptoms, however, most will have diarrhea, greasy stools, abdominal cramping, gas, nausea and a poor appetite. Symptoms can last up to six weeks, Dr. Horn says. If longer, they can lead to dehydration and weight loss. Several prescription antibiotics including metronidazole (Flagyl) are available to kill these parasites.

Protect yourself by washing hands after handling animals, toys and leashes. Wear gloves when cleaning up after your pet. Dispose of feces right away so pets can't re-infect themselves.

Salmonella. This bacterial disease is commonly associated with improperly cooked chicken, but you can get it from living reptiles, too. In pets, salmonella occurs naturally in many reptiles and doesn't usually make them sick. No salmonella treatment is typically needed, Ng says.

In humans, the disease is transmitted by handling a turtle, tortoise, iguana, snake or lizard. The disease is transmitted through reptile feces. The bacterium can cling to clothing or skin. Symptoms last about a week and include diarrhea, fever and stomach pain.

"Salmonella (usually) resolves on its own and rarely requires antibiotic treatment," Dr. Miller says. However, if it spreads from intestines to other organs, antibiotics are required or the disease can be deadly.

Protect yourself by washing hands with soap and water immediately after handling a reptile. Wash clothing that has come into contact with them. Do not allow reptiles to roam the house freely. Keep reptiles out of the kitchen. Disinfect surfaces using diluted bleach or the disinfectant Roccal-D (available at vet's offices and online).

Rabies. This is a viral disease in mammals. (And yes, we humans, along with cats, dogs, horses, cattle, bats, elephants, etc. are mammals). Thanks to widespread vaccination, it's extremely rare in house pets. Only 1% of cats and .3% of dogs tested positive for rabies in 2008, according to the CDC. Wild animals accounted for 93% of reported rabies cases.

You can get rabies if bit by an infected animal, or less commonly, from a lick on an open cut.

In pets, initial signs include excessive salivating and unusually aggressive behavior, says Ng. When the rabies virus overtakes the animal's nervous system in 10-14 days, then can lose the ability to eat or drink. Death occurs soon after. Animals suspected of having rabies may be quarantined for 10-14 days (to see if they survive). Rabies isn't treatable in animals, so euthanasia is the only option after infection has occurred. The only definitive diagnosis comes after death by testing a frozen section of the brain.

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In humans, rabies doesn't usually cause symptoms until late in the disease, by which time the prognosis is grim. Dr. Horn says. When they do occur, symptoms include fever, headache, confusion, anxiety, difficulty swallowing and insomnia. If you are bitten by a rabid animal and the disease is transmitted, get medical attention right away. Starting a month-long series of shots immediately after exposure prevents the virus from taking hold in the body. If infection sets in, there is no treatment. "Except in a small number of cases, the disease is fatal," Dr. Horn says.

Protect yourself by having dogs cats and ferrets vaccinated (fyi... *Where's Mel*, Mel get's his yearly rabies vaccine). Get a pre-exposure shot if you work with animals or travel in undeveloped parts of the world where rabies is common.



This article is intended to provide information. We encourage everyone to consider adopting a life-long loyal companion from the North Little Rock Animal Shelter or other rescue.

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- Nearby amenities are far too numerous to name but include shopping, restaurants, lodging and recreational facilities.
- ISO-2 fire service 1.6 miles at North Little Rock and onsite at Fort Roots.
- Main North Little Rock Police Department less than 10 minutes and onsite security forces at Fort Roots and the adjacent Pulaski Technical College.
- Additional healthcare available nearby at Baptist Springhill Hospital, Baptist Medical Center, St. Vincent Rehab Hospital, St. Vincent Infirmary and numerous private clinics.

The site must be transferred from VA ownership to ADVA. There is no immediate timeline on this requirement; it will be made as the project moves along.

For more information, contact Kelly Ferguson at 501-244-1119 or email kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov.



North Little Rock School District Meetings To Redraw Elementary Boundary Lines

A Demography committee comprised of parents, business leaders, principals and administrators will hold meetings to discuss the new elementary boundaries for the 2015-2016 school year.

The following Community Forums will be held:

April 8—Lakewood Middle School auditorium 6-8 pm

April 9—First Assembly of God sanctuary 11 am—1 pm

April 10—First Baptist Church/Main St sanctuary 6-8 pm

April 10—First Baptist Church/Scipio Jones 11 am—1 pm

Everyone in the community is invited to participate in the process by attending one of the Community Forums.

A recommendation will be made to the School Board in June.

For more information, call Shara Brazear, Communications Specialist, North Little Rock School District at 501-791-8013 or email brazears@nlrsd.org

Do you need a permit to build a raised garden bed in North Little Rock? This was a Facebook question from Robby Rose last month.

Per Planning Department, a raised bed does not require a permit as long as it is under 2 feet high and not attached to the house or any other structure.



Medi-Paws Clinic

Open to **RESIDENTS** of
*Bowker House, Heritage House
Willow House and Campus Towers*

Saturday, April 19, 2014

2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Heritage House Lobby

City License \$5—required

FREE Rabies shots

FREE Yearly shots

Only STERILIZED (spayed or neutered)

Pets Qualify

For more information, call 501-791-8577



Facebook photos...



...from some of our North Little Rock friends and Family.





Above: photos from the late winter sleet storm...morning sunrise and a winter scene from Valley View Farm.
 Below: the Amboy Neighborhood Association held their 2nd annual Chili Cook Off Fundraiser on Saturday, March 22nd at The Church at Burns Park. 12 Teams competed in CASI and Throw Down Chili categories to vie for the coveted titles of Best Chili, Showmanship and People's Choice. About 170 neighbors came out to enjoy music by KC Karaoke, ate hot dogs and chili and helped to raise close to \$500 that will go toward upcoming neighborhood projects. Judges from left to right were NLRPD Officer Tommy Norman; Alderman Steve Baxter; Chief of Staff Danny Bradley; Big Sarge, Channel 4 Newsman Bob Clausen; Alderman Bruce Foutch; ROCAN Director Leifel Jackson; Verizon Arena Marketing Director Jana DeGeorge; Representative Mark Lowrey; Amboy PTA President Amandia Acebedo and Virgil Reed.



Maryann's Cilantro Dip

- 1 bunch cilantro (top only—chopped)
- 2 tomatoes chopped
- 2 cans chopped green chilies
- 2 cans chopped black olives
- 1 bunch or less of green onions
- 1/2 cup Fat Free Zesty Italian Dressing
- 4 cups of finely shredded Monterey Jack Cheese
(you can substitute Colby Jack or other shredded cheese)
- Optional: for a little spice, add some diced jalapeño*



Mix all ingredients except cheese and let sit overnight. If you can't wait, it still tastes great.
 Right before serving, mix in cheese and serve with scoops.
 Some people like Fritos Scoops, others prefer Tostido Scoops.

You may want to grow some tomatoes, cilantro and other veggies in your home garden. This recipe is so good, you will make it over and over!

Betty Crocker Slow-Cooker Sausage and Egg Breakfast

12 eggs
3/4 cup half-and-half
1/2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 c shredded Cheddar cheese (4 oz)
1 c shredded Colby cheese (4 oz)

1/2 c chopped green onions
1 bag (20 oz) refrigerated cooked shredded hash brown potatoes
1 lb bulk pork sausage, cooked and drained
1/2 c chopped roasted red peppers or chopped red bell pepper

Line the sides of a 4 to 5 quart slow cooker with foil that has been folded into thirds; spray with cooking spray.

In a medium bowl, beat eggs, half-and-half, pepper flakes, salt and pepper with whisk. Reserve 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese and 2 Tbsp green onions; set aside. In small bowl, stir together remaining cheeses.

Layer half of the potatoes, sausage, roasted peppers, remaining green onions and cheese in slow cooker. Repeat layers. Pour egg mixture over layers.

Cover; cook on Low heat setting 4 to 5 hours or on High heat setting 2 1/2 to 3 hours or until temperature reaches 160°F in center and egg mixture is set.

Sprinkle reserved cheese and green onions over top of casserole. Cover; cook 10 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Remove foil before serving by loosening edges with a table knife.

Makes 8 servings.



Betty Crocker Slow-Cooker Mexican Breakfast Casserole

1 lb bulk chorizo or sweet Italian sausage, cooked, drained
8 corn tortillas
8 eggs
1 1/2 c milk
1 jalapeno, seeded and finely chopped

1 red bell pepper, chopped
3/4 c sliced green onions
2 c shredded Jack cheese (8 oz)
2 Tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
1 cup Old El Paso Thick n Chunky salsa

Line sides of 5 to 6 quart slow cooker with foil that has been folded into thirds; spray with cooking spray. Place 3 tortillas in slow cooker, tearing if needed to cover bottom.

In medium bowl, beat eggs, milk and pepper with whisk. Reserve 2 Tbsp chopped bell pepper, 2 Tbsp green onions and 3/4 cup cheese; set aside.

Top tortillas in slow cooker with half of the sausage, remaining bell pepper, green onions and cheese. Repeat layers. Top with remaining 3 tortillas, tearing if needed to cover mixture. Pour egg mixture over tortillas.

Cover; cook on Low heat setting 4 to 5 hours or on High heat setting 2 to 3 hours or until temperature reaches 160°F and center is set.

Sprinkle with reserved cheese, bell pepper, green onions and the cilantro. Remove foil before serving by loosening edges with table knife. Serve with salsa and avocado slices, if desired.





*Join us Saturday
April 5, 2014*

11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

*At Lakewood Village Shopping Center
In North Little Rock for*

North Shore Animal League America's Annual



Mobile rescue and adoption units are simultaneously traveling across the United States for the annual Tour For Life, a life-saving nationwide tour.

This year's journey will cover more than 17,000 miles to work with shelters and rescue groups to bring attention to and find homes for the wonderful homeless animals across the country.



The **2014 Tour For Life** will be happening in 52 cities in 26 states and Washington, DC.

Events in North Little Rock include:

FREE Microchips for sterilized animals brought to the event (1 per family)

Drawings for certificates for **Free Sterilization** for a dog or cat

Dog Training Exhibition and tips on training your own dog

Pet Care Information and **Free Giveaways**

A Veteran's Best Friend—dogs trained for Veterans with PTSD

The annual tour will be in the following Arkansas City's in April:

Clinton—April 3

Conway—April 4

North Little Rock—April 5

Fayetteville—April 6



North Shore Animal League America's
TOUR FOR LIFE

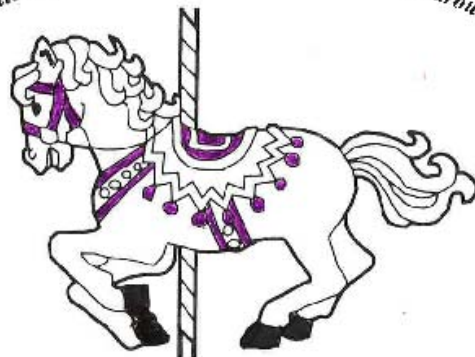


"The World's Largest Mobile Pet Adoption Event"

For more information,
visit their website at
www.animalleague.org or call
501-791-8577



North Little Rock Woman's Club 24th Annual Gala Carousel Ball



Twenty Fourth Annual Gala Carousel Ball

will be held ***Saturday, April 5, 2014***
at the ***Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center***
401 Pershing Boulevard, North Little Rock

Dinner • Dancing • Entertainment
Live and Silent Auctions

Dancing to the Tommy Henderson Band
Black Tie Optional

Mistress of Ceremonies
North Little Rock City Clerk Diane Whitbey

\$50 per person (\$25 is tax deductible)
Table Reservations Required

RSVP now!

Call Helen Greenfield at 501-835-5019 or
Joan Weese at 501-753-7246

Proceeds benefit **North Little Rock Heritage-Bowker-Willow Houses**
the **Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center**
and other **community service projects** of the
North Little Rock Woman's Club

North Little Rock Lions Club
Annual
Bob Moore Memorial
Fish Fry
April 18, 2014



Pond Raised Catfish And Breaded Chicken Strips

With All The Trimmings

Serving 4:30PM Until 7:30PM

Burns Park Hospitality House In North Little Rock

Adults
\$12.00

Children Under 12
\$10.00

Tickets will be available at the door



We Serve

Since 1917, Lions clubs have offered people the opportunity to give something back to their communities. From involving members in projects as local as cleaning up an area park or as far reaching as bringing sight to the world's blind, Lions clubs have always embraced those committed to building a brighter future for their community.

Maintain Your Drain...

North Little Rock Waste Water is reminding customers to NEVER pour grease or cooking oil down sink drains or garbage disposals. Place small amounts of grease and oil in the trash. Large containers of cooking oil can be recycled at 12th and Willow.

Do NOT flush baby wipes, clothing/rags, paper towels, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fragrances, etc.



The deadline to ASSESS your **personal property** without penalty is **May 31, 2014**. Avoid the lines and call us at **501-340-6181** to assess by phone.

Janet Troutman Ward
Pulaski County Assessor

North Little Rock City Council Schedule

The North Little Rock City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at **6:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers in City Hall (300 Main Street, North Little Rock).

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 501-340-5317 or email Diane Whitbey at Dwhitbey@northlittlerock.ar.gov.

The City Council Agenda can be found at www.northlittlerock.ar.gov, then click on the Government tab, followed by Council Agenda.

City Council Members

Ward 1	Debi Ross Beth White	753-0733 758-2738
Ward 2	Linda Robinson Maurice Taylor	945-8820 690-6444
Ward 3	Steve Baxter Bruce Foutch	804-0928 658-9714
Ward 4	Murry Witcher Charlie Hight	835-0009 758-8396

Other Elected Officials

Mayor Joe A. Smith	975-8601
City Clerk and Collector Diane Whitbey	975-8617
City Attorney C. Jason Carter	975-3755
City Treasurer Mary Ruth Morgan	753-2028
District Court Judge Jim Hamilton	791-8559
District Court Judge Randy Morley	791-8562

North Little Rock Curbside Recycling schedule for the month of February:



Mar 31—Apr 4 no pickup
Apr 7—11 recycle
Apr 14—18 no pickup
Apr 21—25 recycle
Apr 28—May 31 no pickup

City Offices located at 120 Main

IT/Data Processing, Kathy Stephens	975-8820
Finance, Karen Scott	975-8802
Information	975-8888
Human Resources, Betty Anderson	975-8855
Planning, Robert Voyles	975-8835
Purchasing, Mary Beth Bowman	975-8881
Utilities Accounting, David Melton	975-8888

Utility Payment Assistance and Other Numbers

Central AR Development Council.....	501-603-0909
Little Rock Catholic Charities...	501-664-0640 ext 459
Saint Francis House.....	501-664-5036
Watershed.....	501-378-0176
Helping Hand of Arkansas.....	501-372-4388
River City Ministries.....	501-376-6694
Arkansas Metro.....	501-420-3824
Arkansas Food Bank.....	501-565-8121
American Red Cross.....	501-748-1021
Salvation Army.....	501-374-9296

New Telephone Numbers for City Hall

Mayor's Office.....	501-975-8601
Joe A. Smith	
City Clerk & Collector.....	501-975-8617
Diane Whitbey	
External Relations.....	501-975-8605
Margaret Powell	

No Change

Legal.....	501-975-3755
C. Jason Carter / Matt Fleming	
Fit 2 Live.....	501-975-8777
Bernadette Rhodes	
Communications.....	501-975-8833
Nathan Hamilton	

April Anniversaries

<i>Name</i>	<i>Dept</i>	<i># Yrs</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Dept</i>	<i># Yrs</i>		
JULIE	FISHER	Admin	2	JASON	ROE	Fire	10
BRUCE	FOUTCH	Admin	3	EARL	MAHANAY	Fire	17
WILLIAM	FERRY	OES/911	12	ROBERT	BRYSON	Fire	15
CARISSA	MERZ	OES/911	1	KYLE	SIMPSON	Fire	15
DAVID	TANTON	OES/911	2	PEGGY	BOREL	Fire	10
SHELLY	BIRMINGHAM	OES/911	4	TIMOTHY	MAHAN	Fire	12
MALLORIE	LEWIS	OES/911	2	MICHAEL	GARRETT	Fire	10
JASON	FINN	OES/911	2	RICHARD	HARGROVE	Fire	10
JAMES	BARTLETT	Electric	3	JANET	HILL	1st Court	24
JOAN	STEWART	Electric	26	DENNIS	HENDERSON	2nd Court	8
CHARLES	BOLDEN	Electric	18	NAKISHA	MORAGNE	UAD	14
JIMMY	CROWLY	Electric	41	BOBBIE	BURKS	UAD	3
MICHAEL	ALLEN	Electric	30	CRYSTAL	WILLIS	Commerce	2
BRENDA	WILSON	Electric	14	ALICE	BROWN	Police	46
LYNWOOD	ANDERSON	Electric	17	WILLIAM	KOVACH	Police	27
THOMAS	BLYTHE JR.	Electric	8	ROBERT	SCOTT	Police	27
SHARON	HENLEY	Finance	36	MARK	TUBBS	Police	22
FREDERICK	GUNTHER	Fire	32	TRACY	ROULSTON	Police	26
DONALD	PAYNE	Fire	32	SIAVASH	MORSHEDI	Police	26
LARRY	SHOOK	Fire	32	MICHAEL	NELSON	Police	21
HEATH	HOOPS	Fire	17	JOHN	YATES	Police	21
DAVID	MATCHETT	Fire	32	THOMAS	DICKSON	Police	21
JOSHUA	COX	Fire	10	CRISS	GARDNER	Police	21
BRYAN	HILL	Fire	13	JASON	WOODWARD	Police	16
GREGORY	BROWN	Fire	15	DAVID	SCHALCHLIN	Code	18
JASON	KNIFE	Fire	12	DUANE	GILES	Code	1
WILLIAM	DAVIS	Fire	13	WILLIAM	SMITH	Public Works	25
JEFF	JEFFERIES	Fire	13	DAVID	BELL	Sanitation	6
TODD	IRBY	Fire	16	LESLIE	RICHARDSON	Sanitation	9
JASON	KNOERNSCHILD	Fire	14	MARCUS	LEE	Street	2
BRIAN	OAKLEY	Fire	15	TERRY	GLENN	Street	7
JOHN	ADAMS	Fire	32	FREDERICK	MOORE III	Street	18
RICKY	CRANFORD	Fire	18	THOMAS	CONES	Street	17
LAITH	ADAMS	Fire	17	STEVEN	HUBBARD	Street	4
DENNIS	POOLE	Fire	10	BRYAN	ROUGELY	Street	1
MICHAEL	THOMPSON	Fire	16	MARVIN	TABB	Street	1
JASON	FENDER	Fire	15	FATIHA	MILES	Hays Center	2
MICHAEL	HOLLEY	Fire	19	CHARLES	STANFORD	Parks Maint	1
DUDLEY	SCHRADER	Fire	14	WILLY	TIDWELL	Parks Maint	17
CHRISTOPHER	MORENO	Fire	12	MARCUS	JOHNSON	Parks Maint	2
CLAYTON	ZAKRZEWSKI	Fire	14	CORDERREL	HARRIS	Parks Maint	2
JOSH	BURKS	Fire	10	KEVAN	GOLDEN	Parks Maint	1
CLINT	BUTLER	Fire	4	CHARLES	BROOKS	Parks Maint	13
ZAKARY	WARD	Fire	4	ROBERT	DAVIS	Parks Maint	11
STEPHEN	FORTSON	Fire	13	DONNIE	BARROW	Parks Maint	1
GREGORY	NASH	Fire	12	DONALD	EOFF	Parks Maint	11
CLINT	REEKIE	Fire	10	TONY	PATE	Parks Rec	7
JAMES	KOLB	Fire	16	MICHAEL	CARR	Parks Golf	1

April Birthdays

Name	Dept	Date	Name	Dept	Date
JOAN BOHANNON	Comm Dev	1	RODGER GREENE	Planning	13
WALTER BARRINGTON	Electric	1	JOHN BRECKON	Police	13
THOMAS DICKSON	Police	1	JON MILLER	Fire	14
WILLIAM HARPER	Electric	2	VICKI HUMPHREY	Code	16
THOMAS CONES	Street	2	GREGORY PATILLO	Street	16
PAUL CANTRELL	Police	3	DALTON GASTON	Fire	18
JANICE JENSEN	Police	3	PHILLIP LOWRY	Police	18
MICHAEL ALLEN	Electric	4	JULIA COULTER	Animal Shelter	19
BRANDON DAVIDSON	Police	4	CHARLES MILES JR.	Police	19
IRA WHITNEY	Police	4	RICKY PRIDMORE	Vehicle Maint	19
ROBERT HUGHES	Electric	6	BLAKE BARNES	Police	20
LAURA WEAVER	UAD	7	BILLY JONES	Fire	21
BOBBIE BURKS	UAD	7	ALANA PIERCE	Fire	22
JOSEPH MADISON	Police	7	PHILIP EVANS	Police	22
CHARLES BLACK	Fire	8	CHRISTOPHER A. RAY	Electric	24
CYNTHIA ISBELL	Commerce	8	GLENN KRAUSS II	Electric	24
LEONARD MONTGOMERY	Police	8	HAROLD FORD	Sanitation	24
YVONNE HARRIS	1st Court	9	FREDDIE HASKINS	Sanitation	25
BOBBY RHOADS	Parks Admin	9	DEIDRA DEVINE	Traffic	25
SHANE PRATER	Electric	10	KENNETH WILLIAMS	Sanitation	26
JAMES DANCY	Police	10	DONNIE BARROW	Parks Maint	26
JOHN LYON	Police	10	JACOB HOUSE	Police	27
JOHN YATES	Police	12	RONNIE PETTIT	Electric	28
TODD HINK	Fire	13	KYLE MCNEIL	Electric	28
ALAN GARNER	Fire	13	EDDIE REED	Electric	30

We're Smart About Your Safety

Take the **9 1 1** Challenge

Smart911.com/911challenge

April is 9-1-1 Education Month. In support of 9-1-1 centers across the country take the 9-1-1 challenge by logging in at www.smart911.com/911challenge.

A spreadsheet including all North Little Rock employees is provided at the end of the previous year for Birthday and Anniversary information (to be used the following year). If you see an employee's name who is no longer with the city, keep in mind that the current information was provided during the previous year when those individuals were employees of the City of North Little Rock.

If you have news, an upcoming event, recipe, photos, etc. you would like to share with others in North Little Rock, please email Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov by the 15th of the month.

Notice: to be eligible to offer a discount to North Little Rock City Employees, a business must be properly Licensed to do business in the city and current on all monies due to the City of North Little Rock.

North Little Rock Mayor Joe A. Smith 2014 State of the City Report



Distinguished members of the North Little Rock City Council, City Attorney, City Clerk, and my fellow residents of North Little Rock: Thank you for the honor of serving as your Mayor.

2013 was just the beginning of a journey. I took office in January and immediately set down the road to make North Little Rock better for everyone.

Our City does not belong to one individual or set of individuals. It belongs to all the people. It is a place where people from all walks of life can find a path to a future with a good job and an opportunity for a better life.

I would like to present a map of our City and the journey we began fourteen months ago. This map includes incredible attractions, highlighted for us to acknowledge and recognize what we have seen, done and where we have been; helpful information for better understanding of where we are; and, as all maps should, some warning signs so we do not go down the wrong path.

Of course, this journey would not be possible without the bravery and dedication of our City work force. We have the best employees in the state and I am reminded of that every time my inbox fills with emails praising our police, fire, sanitation, and street departments during this crazy winter. At my staff meetings I am constantly surprised by the reports from our department heads at the sheer number of projects and daily responsibilities our City undertakes. As a resident, I am thankful. As Mayor, I am bursting with pride.

Also, this journey does not happen without the thoughtful and purposeful advice, opinion, and direction from a great City council. I

want to make sure all Council members know how grateful we are for their service. Our residents might not realize that the Council sacrifices more than just one evening, twice a month. They are ambassadors for our City every day. The hours of research they do prior to our meetings can sometimes be daunting and overwhelming, but they have never failed to bring great ideas and discussion to the council chamber. Being a liaison for the public to our government is a 24-7 job, and I appreciate all they do for our City.

When I took office last January, I spoke of partnerships and how building coalitions, working with businesses, residents, and other governments, can help our City.

Partners help us on our journey. With the City Council, we started by strengthening our partnership with the North Little Rock School District and helping them build a state of the art education community. We worked with Ben E. Keith, Diamond Bear Brewing Company, and Edwards Price Saver to bring jobs and more than \$100 million in investment for our City. We are planning for our future by supporting the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub which I am confident will pay dividends down the road. We must continue our policies of supporting an environment that is welcoming to new businesses and aggressively pursuing economic development opportunities. It is the new reality of municipal government to be competitive in attracting private investment. We have a lot to offer the business community in North Little Rock.

Making sure our City's journey is a safe one has always been my number one priority. In 2013, violent crime in North Little Rock was down by nearly 14%. Property crime was down an incredible 26%. Specifically, thefts from vehicles were down an astounding 50%. I truly believe, as does our Police Chief, this is a direct result of our increased focus on officers' training and their involvement in the community. Our fire department continues their incredible job of protecting our people

and property. In the fires we had last year, the professionals in our fire department saved more than 98% of the property value, resulting in more than \$200 million in savings to our City.

I took office 1 week following the 2012 Christmas Day snowstorm that crippled much of Central Arkansas. Although we did an amazing job getting back on our feet – faster than most other cities – I wanted us to be more prepared for the next time an incident occurs. We opened up our Emergency Operations Center in November and have already started revising and updating our new Emergency Operations Plan. We now have a contract in place for emergency cleanup when disaster strikes. It is up to local government to meet the emergency needs of its citizens and restore normalcy as quickly as possible. We have seen what happens in other cities when they are not prepared and depend on someone else to respond. We do not want that to happen in North Little Rock.

The map of our City has 403 miles of streets to be maintained. We have begun a repaving program that will refurbish miles of city streets over the next nine years. Our electric department has wisely invested in clearing our right of ways free from large limbs, which meant very few large power outages in 2013. Maintaining our infrastructure is critical to the future of our City.

Trust is the cornerstone of good government. To have trust, there must be transparency. Involving our neighborhood organizations with the workings of their government has helped tremendously. Anyone who has lived here for a long time can look at our “map” and not necessarily recognize the highways or streets. They see neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations play a major role in the strength of our City, and I created our Neighborhood Leadership Council in order to augment and engage all of our neighborhoods to foster partnerships among the organizations.

Our city has great neighborhood revitalization success stories. Argenta has become a template that my administration is using to help in other revitalization projects in Levy, Baring Cross, and Park Hill. Our future growth and prosperity will come, in large part, from existing neighborhoods and continued investments are important.

Last year's budget discussions began in earnest with the participation of the Council, earlier than they ever have before. I look to the Council for guidance in establishing budget priorities.

After months of research we have begun the process to replace our 13-year-old website. We will also be launching a mobile app that will allow citizens to post, track, and follow up on their concerns (e.g. potholes, traffic lights, etc.) with just a few keystrokes. Ensuring our citizens have access to the most current and relevant information, and providing additional opportunities for the public to interact with us, is a key part of keeping our government as transparent and responsive as possible.

The efficient use of our tax dollars is one of the highest responsibilities of elected governments. My administration will always strive to create more efficient measures in order to give our taxpayers the most public service for their dollar, constantly looking for ways to reduce our daily expenses while maintaining our current level of City services. Cost-saving measures have been implemented in several departments, from sanitation changes and barricade fees to cutting meter reading jobs at the electric department.

The roadmap for our City, moving forward for the next few years, includes some significant financial warning signs. These warnings are not apocalyptic yet, and I am confident that by choosing to recognize and address these revenue issues now, we will secure the financial footing of our City for years to come.

I have met with many of you about this very subject and the newspaper has reported on the recent study put together by my office on our 5-year financial outlook. It is incumbent upon us as the elected leaders of our city to put forward our vision of how to stabilize our declining revenues without sacrificing the City services upon which our residents and visitors have come to rely.

Our city is growing in more ways than just in population. This means we have more economic development opportunities, more tourists come to our downtown, and more visitors to Burns Park. We have access to some first class cultural facilities and get to host almost every major entertainment event that comes to Central Arkansas.

But, this increase in opportunity and activity also means more responsibility. Being a part of a large metropolitan area lends itself to creating partnerships with our neighboring cities to provide services and opportunities that standing alone we could not provide – such as bus services and cultural venues.

As everyone knows, the cost of providing services has gone up. Ten years ago the cost of running our sanitation department was about \$2.5 million, last year the cost topped \$5 million. In 2013 our 911 call center took in more than 100,000 calls. Of those nearly 87% were from wireless phones. Ten years ago, not nearly as many cell phones were around. That call volume requires more dispatchers.

We are a First Class City in more ways than just that official designation based on population. I am proud of our employees and the job they do every day for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

We must decide as a Council, with encouraged input from our fellow citizens, how we want to move forward as a City. Our roadmap is not complete, but I look forward to continuing the journey with you.

Joe A. Smith, Mayor