



2024
North Little Rock
State of the City

January 2025

Members of the North Little Rock City Council, City Attorney, City Clerk, and my fellow residents of North Little Rock, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor during 2024. The City of North Little Rock has accomplished so much in 2024. We opened the Blaze Drive Fire Station in our city's east and began constructing a new central fire station in Mid City to better serve many residents and businesses. Our police department opened the REAL TIME CRIME CENTER to help our officers work more efficiently.

So many exciting things are happening in all areas of our city. The new Baptist Health Clinic opened in September, and in October, we unveiled the new North Little Rock Event Center, which will be built near the river on the site of the former NLR City Services building. New businesses continue to choose North Little Rock as their site! Economic development continues to thrive in all parts of our city. Today's Power opened a Solar Farm, providing our city with two alternative power forms: solar and water!

I am so proud of our city employees' dedication and hard work. We share a special spirit of community here in North Little Rock. I am proud to be your Mayor and excited about the next four years ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry C. Hartwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

AIRPORT

All gates with electronic access were updated earlier this year, along with a portion of new perimeter fencing, using a 2023 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. Airport runway 17-35 received a much-needed overlay. The \$1.3-million-dollar project was funded by a Federal Aviation Administration grant and an Americans with Disabilities Act Match Grant. The overlay portion was completed in late November 2024. The airport plans to utilize the \$1,171,000 Federal Aviation Administration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Infrastructure Grant available in 2025 to fund the replacement of an existing 8 Bay T-Hangar. The airport commission approved the November 2024 bid to replace the existing structure with a 10 Bay T-Hangar. One new individual hangar was constructed in November. Revenues for 2024 increased from 2023 with increased rent, sales tax, and fuel tax collections. An air show was held in October, and it was a great success.

ANIMAL SERVICES

- Total intake – 2866
- Adoption total – 1298
- Reclaimed total – 339
- Euthanized total – 1193
- Died /Escaped – 55
- Calls for service – 5978
- Citations issued – 364
- Vouchers sold – 474
- We started the City of NLR's First TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release program), drastically reducing the number of cats euthanized in the shelter.
- Mobile unit adoption events - 19
- One coyote was removed from the Chiquita Road/Rose City area by the city trapper.
- The new building and renovations are 97% complete, and we are just finishing some minor items.
- A grand opening and ribbon cutting is scheduled for February 5, 2025.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER

The City Clerk and Treasurer's Office provides record-keeping and money-handling services to the public and city departments. One of the highlights of 2024 was receiving approval to move forward with a new imaging software that will provide 24-hour user-friendly access to city ordinances, resolutions, council meeting minutes, and other miscellaneous public documents. Our mission is to provide information through transparency and ease of access and encourage our constituents to contact us with suggestions for improving our services.

We currently have 4,571 active business license in North Little Rock. Approximately 300 new businesses were issued in 2024. As of today, our office's efforts in enforcing the business license ordinance have collected over 3.2 million dollars in revenue. We also have over 200 city alcohol license holders, generating \$353,671.86 for 2024. We currently do not have any delinquent accounts in this

category. Our office keeps records (communications, resolutions, ordinances, meeting minutes, contracts), and the treasury department - is the last stop for all monies in the City needing to be deposited in the bank. Our office prints annual Business License and Privilege Renewal Invoices mailed annually on December 31. Business owners have until March 31 to renew their license without penalty. If necessary, a second notice is mailed during the second week of March. Licenses postmarked or received after March 31 are considered delinquent and assessed a 25% penalty. Licenses renewed after July 1 are assessed a 50% penalty. Staff also provides onsite visits to review the nature of a business's operation and verify if proper licensing is in place. Every person conducting business in the city (of any kind) must have a license. We collect payments for monthly Mixed Drink and beer taxes. Mixed Drink taxes are due in our office by the end of the month. We research ordinances and resolutions requested by department heads and citizens, attend City Council meetings when required, supervise and counsel other staff members, maintain various reports such as monthly department head reports to the Mayor, prepare the agenda and roll call book for City Council meetings, and handling the process of updating the imaging software for public access to all legislation as needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department has continued to increase the City's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. A Communications Council of communication representatives from city departments, neighborhoods, school districts, libraries, and other areas met quarterly throughout the year to collaborate and explore more effective and efficient ways to communicate with all residents and businesses in our city. Our website and social media accounts were updated daily to share the most up-to-date information with everyone in our town. We continue to build relationships with all media and press and have experienced consistent print and television coverage. We continue to work with all departments in our city on media requests, developing and sharing information, and other requests we receive.

CODE

- Worked with other cities statewide to help establish Code Enforcement procedures for their local government.
- Officers improved by attending continuing education courses.
- More self-initiated violation notices
- Self-initiated calls: 5418
- Violation notices: 6634
- Fewer neighbor complaints
- Citations issued: 77
- Search warrants served: 33
- More voluntary compliance from citizens
- Voluntary compliance: 6225
- More vacant lots cleaned/mowed: 3402
- Structures condemned: 50
- Structures demolished by city and property owners: 173

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This year, the City received \$644,062 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, along with \$303,502 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding, which will provide infrastructure improvements, increased availability of affordable housing, and support for community-based non-profit organizations. During 2024 CDBG funds supported:

- Care Link’s Meals-on-Wheels program, which provides hot meals for seniors.
- The North Little Rock Boys and Girls Club Great Futures Program provides summer and after-school care.
- River City Ministry’s medical program provides emergency services such as prescription and over-the-counter medications for low-income and homeless residents.
- Ozark Mission Project’s minor home repair program for seniors.
- Street and drainage projects in Wards 1, 2, and 3, in collaboration with the City’s engineering department.
- The CDA partners with the Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat (PCNAH) to develop affordable housing using HOME funds. In 2024, two newly built, energy-efficient, single-family homes were sold to two low-income homebuyers.
- Home Investment Partnerships Program—American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds were allocated for tenant-based rental assistance and the acquisition of affordable rental housing. HOME-ARP funds are intended to serve households at greatest risk of housing instability, including individuals and families experiencing homelessness and/or who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Application funds distributed to North Little Rock Community Gardens: \$30,080
 - Spring Funding: \$17,950 (six gardens funded)
 - Fall Funding: \$12,130 (three gardens funded)
- Fifteen (15) active gardens in the program.
 - Ward 1: Dark Hollow, Hays Senior Center, Idlewild, Iris Park, Lakewood Lakewood Property Owner’s Association, North Little Rock High School Special Education & Med-Pro, North Heights Community Center, and Skyline.
 - Ward 2: Baring Cross, Boone Park Elementary, Calm and Confidence Apiary
 - Ward 4: Pike View Elementary and St. Joseph Farmstead
 - One (1) new garden added to the program: Lakewood POA Community Garden
 - Three (3) new gardens applied for spring 2025 funding: The Tea House, The Urban Sol Community Garden, North Little Rock School District Six Academy of Agriculture & Veterinarian Sciences (formerly 7th Street Elementary).
- Reported produce harvested = 9,207 pounds. The largest harvest came from Baring Cross, which distributes over 6,733 pounds of produce to the community.
- Volunteer hours logged = 2,188 hours. According to the Nonprofit Leadership Center, one (1) volunteer hour is valued at \$31.80/hour. This equates to a volunteer labor value of \$69,578 for the 2024 year.

Soil amendments were donated by American Composting and distributed to all gardens in the program: 34 cubic yards. Started 10,000+ watermelon seeds for Stone Links; partnered with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance for the 2024 Watermelon Crawl. Served as a Special Guest/Speaker for Garden Fest:

Laman Library, Growing Urban Farmers: St. Joseph's Farmstead, STEM Fest 2024: North Heights Community Center. Garden Workshops Hosted for: Pike View Elementary, Urban Promise via ACTs Church, Seis Puentes. Hosted a collaborative Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service with Every Arkansan, Our House, Engage Arkansas & AmeriCorps members – including a month-long food drive, Little Food Pantry (LFP) painting, and a garden workday at The Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's Garden of Eating. Connected with Junior League of North Little Rock to facilitate a Little Food Pantry project in partnership with North Heights Community Center and North Little Rock School District to host a garden interest meeting for all schools in the district. Hosted a service day event at the St. Joseph Farmstead in partnership with the Arkansas Dream Center, Our House, Engage Arkansas, and AmeriCorps. Media and marketing accomplishments: Featured in all 2023 North Little Rock PROUD Magazine editions, Featured on KATV channel 7 and The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette for Baring Cross and Dark Hollow community gardens. Collaborated with the City of North Little Rock to produce a garden video highlighting Baring Cross and Dark Hollow community gardens. Participated in and presented at the 2024 Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo and the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council's "ReLeaf" Event.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New business and expansions:

- Dollar General Distribution Center – NEW
Capital Investment: \$140 M/Net new jobs: 200
- CFS Technologies – EXPANSION
Capital Investment: \$4 M/Net new jobs: 30
- Ace Glass and Recycling – NEW
Capital Investment: \$50 M/Net new jobs: 60
- Aloft hotel – NEW
Capital Investment: \$20 M/Net new jobs: 40
- Tempo by Hilton – NEW
Capital Investment: \$40 M/Net new jobs: 60
- Rose city health clinic – NEW
Capital Investment: \$4 M/Net new jobs: 10
- North Little Rock Event (Conference) Center – NEW
- Pella Windows and Doors - EXPANSION
- Hale Trailer and Brake – NEW

New business licenses: 480 in 2024, up nine from 2023. Projects and recruitment: Hosted three site visits and one family tour and responded to 11 Requests for Information. Argenta Contemporary Theater is expanding its education programs and opening The Benson/McAdams ACT Academy above Thea Foundation. Private residential investment: \$2.4 million. Tract 3 at Tulip Farms sold for \$3 million. Totals for 2024: Capital Investment: \$263 M; Net new jobs: 400.

ELECTRIC

The Electric Department has had a good year. Revenues remain stable, which has helped us keep rates stable in an inflationary economy. We continue to highlight our tree-trimming program as a major focus. Due to the continuing vegetation management efforts, outages have been significantly reduced. This year, we trimmed 130 miles of lines and addressed over 500 tree-trimming tickets. As always, our customers are a top priority. We are extremely proud that our customer service addressed over 140,000 customer contacts through phone, chat, email, forms, and social media. Our biggest win for the City and Department was commissioning our two solar arrays in partnership with Today's Power. These two arrays will combine to generate seven megawatts of electricity.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Total phone calls: 132,342 (9-1-1 for police and fire, non-emergency for police, fire and other)
- Fire Department calls: 15,742
- Police Department calls: 89,746
- Computer-Aided Dispatch entries: 105,389
- Call statistic requirements from the national standard for answering 911 calls: 1) 90% of all 911 calls arriving at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) shall be answered within 15 seconds, and 2) 95% of all 911 calls arriving at the PSAP should be answered within 20 seconds.
- In North Little Rock during 2024:
 - Calls answered within 10 seconds: 99.50 %*
 - Calls answered within 15 seconds: 100%.*

In 2023, we realized we needed to improve our fire dispatch times. In 2024, we began keeping statistics. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requires that 90% of fire calls be dispatched within 60 seconds. In 2024, 94.9% of calls were dispatched within 60 seconds or less. Mach Alert Fire Station Alerting: In December 2024, Motorola signed a contract to purchase Mach Alert Fire Station Alerting. This will allow us to improve our fire department's dispatch times further. The installation is expected to be completed by October 2025.

Current Staffing: Out of 33 Emergency Services positions, we ended 2024 with four vacancies. Beginning January 1, 2025, we added eight positions due to the consolidation with Maumelle, which brought us 41 Emergency Services positions. Five dispatchers transitioned to North Little Rock from Maumelle, with three positions vacant. Three new dispatchers have completed our hiring process and are scheduled to start in early January 2025. So, as a consolidated center, we will start 2025 with 41 positions and four vacancies. We increased our part-time employees from five to seven. Consolidation: We entered into a consolidation agreement with Maumelle. As of January 1, 2025, our center will perform the duties of the dispatch center for Maumelle in addition to North Little Rock. We spent considerable time preparing for this consolidation. We have continued to focus on updating/creating our Policy and Procedure manual. We began the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Academies accreditation process at the end of 2023 and are expected to complete it in late 2025. We purchased Prepared911 for the center. This platform utilizes AI and provides transcription and translation for all incoming 911 calls while providing call summarization to aid dispatching. The platform also allows callers to provide live stream video and pictures from their phones to the center.

This provides a more complete picture of the incident and allows for a better response from first responders. We are also in beta test mode for quality analysis of our calls. Once testing is complete, the hope is this will allow dispatchers and supervisors to ensure that call-taking protocols are followed on all calls.

ENGINEERING

2024 Completed City/State/Federal Funded Projects:

- Park Hill Jump Start
- McCain Median Improvements (Fairway Avenue to Warden Road)
- Burns Park Pavement Repairs (Tornado Recovery)
- Ott Park Trail Improvements

Design/Construction of CDBG Street and Drainage Projects:

- College Park Drive & West 19th Street (Percy Machin to Willow streets) – Complete
- Gum Street (15th to 16th streets) – Complete
- West 49th Street (Parker to Division streets) – Complete
- East 10th Street (D to F streets) – Design 50%

Administration of On-Going City/State/Federal Funded Projects:

- Pike Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (16th street to Pershing Boulevard)
- Crystal Hill Road Extension (Maumelle City Limits to Maumelle Boulevard)
- Dixie Addition Flood Risk Reduction Study
- Highway 70 Left Turn Lane Improvements
- East Bethany Drainage Improvements
- Main Street Viaduct Bridge Replacement – seeking grant funding

2024 Overlay Program:

Ward 1: West 22nd Street, West A Avenue, Orange Street, Willow Street and West 18th Street

Ward 2: Willow Beach Road, Louisiana Downs Cove, Citation Drive, Lansbrook Drive, Farmstead Road, Pioneer Road, and G Street

Ward 3: Ella Court, Buckles Drive, Coors Drive, Kansas Avenue, East Military Drive, and West Military Drive

Ward 4: Ozark Drive, Mission Road, Middleton Drive, and Kierre Drive

FINANCE

In 2024, the Finance Department received the GFOA's Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting for our 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This is the fourth consecutive time we have received this award. In 2024, we submitted our 2023 ACFR for award consideration and anticipate receiving the award. Also in 2024, the Finance Department received the GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for our 2022 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This was our third consecutive award. We submitted our 2023 PAFR for award consideration and anticipate receiving the award again in 2025.

FIRE

The North Little Rock Fire Department had a great year in 2024. We had an Insurance Service Office (ISO) review and maintained our Class 1 rating. A "Fire ISO review" refers to an evaluation conducted by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to assess a fire department's capabilities and the overall fire protection preparedness of a community, resulting in a rating that insurance companies use to determine fire insurance premiums for properties within that area; essentially, it's a review of how well equipped a community is to fight fires, based on factors like the fire department's response capabilities, water supply, and communication systems. We opened Fire Station 11 on Blaze Drive in the east part of our city. The construction of the Central Fire Station is underway and is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. We received two new fire engines for Station 8 (501 West Military Drive) and Station 9 (Osage and J.F.K.) We also ordered two new fire engines (engine 1 and engine 6), which should arrive by the end of 2025.

HISTORY

The North Little Rock Heritage Center houses the North Little Rock History Commission and archives of the city and the North Little Rock Historic District Commission in the historic fire station building at 506 Main Street. Construction is ongoing downstairs to install a permanent exhibit on the city's history. The exhibit will include information from the early days of the north side of the Arkansas River, settlement and growth, business, politics, fire and police, schools, neighborhoods, military, and the railroad industry. The exhibit is planned to open in the late summer of 2025. Other projects underway at the North Little Rock Heritage Center include interviews of citizens. A project compiling interviews of some of the first black students to attend North Little Rock High School is being developed and will tell the story of the "North Little Rock Six" who were turned away from entering high school in 1957.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

After serving as an affordable housing provider since 1939, the North Little Rock Housing Authority changed its name to NorthBridge Housing Solutions (NBHS) in 2022. NBHS administers the state's second-largest Housing Choice Voucher program, providing affordable housing assistance to low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities through funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Our programs include Rental Assistance Demonstration Project-Based Voucher Program (RAD), Section 18 Project-Based Voucher (PBV), and Section 8 Voucher Program. NorthBridge Housing Solutions is focused on bettering lives, our communities, and the future of one person, one family, and one neighborhood at a time. The agency is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, nominated by the Board and approved by the mayor for five-year terms. The Board also includes a "Resident Commissioner."

HUMAN RESOURCES

Total applicants: 3189

New hires: 162

In June of 2024, Human Resources proudly accepted the new challenge of managing the Fit 2 Live Department. We accomplished the following programs:

- Unity Pink Walk, 850 participants
- City of North Little Employee Wellness Fair
- Various Wellness programs
- Physical wellness, Weight Watchers
- Several Lunch and Learns for Mental Health
- Financial Wellness program sponsored by First Security Bank
- City Chili Cook-off: 21 departments participated

LIBRARY

In 2024, the North Little Rock Public Library System has played an essential role in the community by expanding access to resources, offering innovative programs, and increasing engagement with residents. Over the year, the library issued 5,675 library cards, with over 700 new cards issued during Library Card Sign-Up Month in September. Our physical and digital collections were heavily used, with 95,821 physical items and 155,074 digital items borrowed or renewed, including 3,823 items delivered to residents through our homebound services. The library served 311,702 people in person, with door counts reflecting significant foot traffic and 142,847 visits to our website and digital services. We processed 5,344 passports and assisted 3,376 people with notary services throughout the year. The library hosted 3,345 programs with 98,587 attendees, reaching 1,412,378 people through our social media channels. Our computer stations saw 36,382 users, who logged over 35,264 hours. Rover, our Mobile Library, traveled 2702.5 miles, made 216 stops, circulated 1,589 items, and provided 140 programs with an attendance 4,991. The Rover service also had a door count of 8,646. Finally, we are excited to welcome the Arkansas Innovation Hub to the North Little Rock Public Library System on January 1, 2025. We look forward to the new opportunities and collaborations that will arise as we continue to serve the community in the years ahead.

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

The Council continues its 26th year under the new Director, Jill Mills. Former Director Jan Scholl, who started the Council in 1999, retired on October 1st.

- There are currently 100 Council members.
- The Council volunteered 2,508 hours from September through November.
- Our main community partners include the North Little Rock Animal Shelter, Ridge Road Outreach, the Blossoms Nursing Home, and the Ronald McDonald House.
- In October, the Council was honored to be named the Arkansas Young Professionals Outstanding Volunteer Youth Organization.
- Twenty-six Council members rang the bells outside Hobby Lobby to raise money for the Salvation Army in November and December.

- In December, the Council facilitated the Secret Santa Program for Ridge Road Elementary for the third year. Eighty-six students received the requested Christmas gifts, and 106 received Christmas stockings. An additional van load of toys was also provided.
- The Council's emphasis on service is the Hunger Heroes Program. Council members fill several Little Free Pantries monthly at Ridge Road Elementary, North Little Rock Middle School, and North Little Rock High School. Members brought shelf-stable food to monthly meetings to donate to the family pantry at Ridge Road. Members bake cookies monthly for the residents at the Ronald McDonald House. As of December, fifty dozen cookies had been baked. Several students have applied for the Sodexo Stop Hunger Youth Grant. Grants will be announced in the spring.
- This fall semester, the Council has provided volunteer staff for events at Seis Puentes, the Ronald McDonald House, the North Little Rock Animal Shelter, the Argenta and Laman Libraries, the Grove Food Pantry and Thrift Shop, the Mosaic Templars Museum, the Old Statehouse Museum, the Firehouse Museum and Hostel, the Museum of Discovery, CARTI, Canvas Community United Methodist Church, the afterschool programs at North Heights and Glenview Community Centers, Ballet Arkansas, the Salvation Army, the Blossom's Nursing Home, Shop with a Cop, the North Little Rock Christmas Parade, and many more!

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

There are thirty-one neighborhoods in North Little Rock, from Amboy to Windsor Valley. Twenty-two of those neighborhoods have an autonomous group concerned with their neighborhood issues. In 2024, we did 100 mailouts to inform residents about neighborhood issues. We loaned equipment to 75 neighborhood or nonprofit events in North Little Rock. We completed 40 applications for neighborhood events closing streets. We also attended more than 90 meetings for groups/commissions in which we staffed or participated. We attended disaster training taught by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Those trainings included management of volunteers and donated supplies and providing mass care and emergency assistance. We disseminated information about the solar eclipse and double cicada emergences, even though both events were significantly less impressive than were predicted. We assisted two neighborhood groups with reestablishing themselves as an IRS-recognized 501c3 nonprofit group. Twelve neighborhoods held National Night Out events. We also helped other city departments survey neighborhood residents and park patrons for grant applications.

The City Beautiful Commission received an allocation of \$ 20,000 for 2024. All allocated funds were spent on projects throughout the city. The Commission approved a request from the Friends of the Old Mill to spend the remaining funds from an earlier approval on restoring concrete work initially by Dionicio Rodriguez. A request from the Hays Senior Center for plant funding and disease control for trees and shrubs was approved. The Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation was approved for work on improving that neighborhood's sign and beautifying the community garden with murals. The Ashley Downs Property Owners Association was approved for a request to beautify the common entrances for this neighborhood. Finally, the Commission partnered with the Argenta Downtown Council to paint electric and traffic boxes in all four city wards outside the Argenta area.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Burns Park completely reopened in February 2024 after the March 31, 2023 tornado.
- The pavilions in Burns Park were renamed after native trees: Pecan, Cypress, Oak, Hickory, etc.
- Reconstruction of Funland and the new splash pad in Burns Park is underway.
- The Burns Park Golf Course reached a record year for overall play.
- Burns Park Golf Course purchased 25 additional golf carts to accommodate players on the golf course.
- Burns Park Tennis Center received paint and new doors throughout the facility.
- The North Little Rock Community Center is currently under construction.
- Park Maintenance staff have been making changes around the other four (4) community centers in the City of North Little Rock.
- The new disc golf course is open in Burns Park. It is located near the covered bridge and old equestrian parking area.
- All trails are now open for trail users.

PATRICK HENRY HAYS SENIOR CENTER

The North Little Rock Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center is a place for anyone over the age of 50 to socialize, exercise, meet new people, and volunteer. We have enhanced the security at our main entrance and at our north doors. We also have over 60 security cameras in and around our facility. We offer various activities to meet most social and physical needs. Our facility is over 60,000 square feet, consisting of an aerobic, a lap pool, a large exercise room, a computer lab, game rooms, a library, a meeting room, a craft room, and a 5,000 square foot ballroom with a full commercial kitchen. We offer rentals of the meeting room and ballroom for special events. This past year was great for our center, and we look forward to growing our membership in 2025. We had 107,934 check-ins were recorded this past year. In addition, our facility is used for 47 different special events. We added a 75” monitor in the lobby to post upcoming trips and special announcements. Our Art Gallery used to display artwork from local artists 10 months out of the year. An 80” monitor and computer were added to the meeting room for rentals, classes, and conferences. Our billiards tables resurfaced, we replaced our original golf cart with a new six-passenger cart with an enclosure, the wallpaper was removed, and the walls were painted in the exercise room. We add a new lift to assist disabled members in and out of the aerobic pool. We have enhanced our involvement with Care Link to provide more activities and resources to our members. We strengthened our relationship with the North Little Rock Senior Citizens Outreach Board of Directors to service our city’s seniors.

POLICE

- Expanded the REAL TIME CRIME CENTER.
- Continued the Joint Police Academy to sustain the North Little Rock Police Department.
- Celebrated promotions, recognized retirements, and swore-in newly hired officers.
- Served the unsheltered and all areas of the community.
- Participated in various community activities: Drug Takeback, I Like Me, National Night Out, and many others.
- Increased recruiting efforts and increased the fleet of vehicles.

SANITATION

There is still much work to be done in North Little Rock. We continue to make necessary changes to keep up with disposal needs and new growth in our city. Our goal is to meet these challenges and provide excellent service. By diligently serving North Little Rock's residents, we will continue to enhance our city's great attributes.

UNSHELTERED

Warming and Cooling Centers were opened throughout 2024 for the unsheltered community. Meals were provided by the community and organized by the efforts of Officer Cobbs. An Unsheltered Fair was held in October and was well attended. Haircuts, vaccinations, medical, dental, and physical needs were met at the fair. The community supported the unsheltered community at this fair and throughout the year. Office Cobbs continues to work with city leaders and the community to develop relationships that will benefit the unsheltered community.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The Vehicle Maintenance Department has made remarkable strides in enhancing the operational efficiency of North Little Rock throughout 2024. The Heavy Equipment Maintenance Team repurposed three brush trucks into leaf trucks. In addition, our technicians prepped the leaf machines by replacing common wear items, ensuring they were ready for the season ahead. In light of a deleted technician position within the Parks Department, our team assumed responsibility for maintaining their vehicles and equipment. Additionally, the department has played a vital role in supporting the Electric Department with technical diagnostics and vehicle maintenance, offering assistance whenever needed.

The Police Maintenance Team, despite the challenge of managing 228 police vehicles with a lean staff consisting of only one foreman and two technicians, has excelled in their duties. The team strives for excellence, ensuring that vehicles are safe, operational, and ready for service. By streamlining brake services and many other repairs, officers can wait on-site for their vehicles, reducing the need for outsourcing and significantly minimizing downtime. This proactive approach ensures police vehicles remain operational and ready for immediate use.

The Welding Team has been a cornerstone of innovation and maintenance, contributing to a wide range of projects throughout the city such as gates at the riverfront and Burns Park, and the fabrication of metal floors and ramps for trailers. They have repaired and replaced essential elements, including kennel gates at the Animal Shelter, the fence along Riverfront Drive, and the children's train at Funland. The team has demonstrated ingenuity in maintaining city vehicles by fabricating locking storage boxes for police vehicles, repairing and painting floodgates, and replacing street grates. They have also adapted and repaired equipment attachments, welded signal light poles for the Traffic Department, and installed new heat and air units on the Animal Shelter's adoption trailer. From building fences for the Laman Library to fabricating ladder guards and repairing broken welds on street equipment, the Welding Team remains an indispensable force, ensuring North Little Rock's infrastructure remains strong and operational.

The collective efforts of these dedicated teams have resulted in excellence across every aspect of vehicle and equipment maintenance in 2024. Their collaboration and commitment to quality have been crucial to ensuring that North Little Rock's fleet and infrastructure remain reliable and operational. As we move into 2025, our teams are eager to continue their outstanding work, striving to further improve and innovate for the city's continued success.



Shara Hutchcraft created the 2024 State of the City report,
Director of Communications for the City of North Little Rock.