



north little rock **PROUD**

Summer 2026, Vol. 09, No. 02.

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office

INSIDE:
CENTRAL FIRE STATION OPENS
Airshow Returns

Summer is well underway in the City of North Little, and there's plenty to do! From the community pools at the North Heights and Sherman Park Community Centers to the Splash Pad and Funland at Burns Park, there's ample opportunity for families to have fun in North Little Rock. I encourage citizens to enjoy the many amenities we have to offer, like archery, pickleball, disc golf, trail riding, rock climbing and more this summer.

The new Central Fire Station is officially open, and we couldn't be prouder. Thank you to everyone who attended the opening. Because you voted for the half-cent sales tax, the City remains committed to the three P's: Public safety, Parks and Public works. I wish you and your family a happy and safe summer.

Terry C. Hartwick
Mayor Terry C. Hartwick



The new Central Fire Station located in Mid City is pictured on the cover. We are so proud of this new station. Photo credit: Mark Shoemaker

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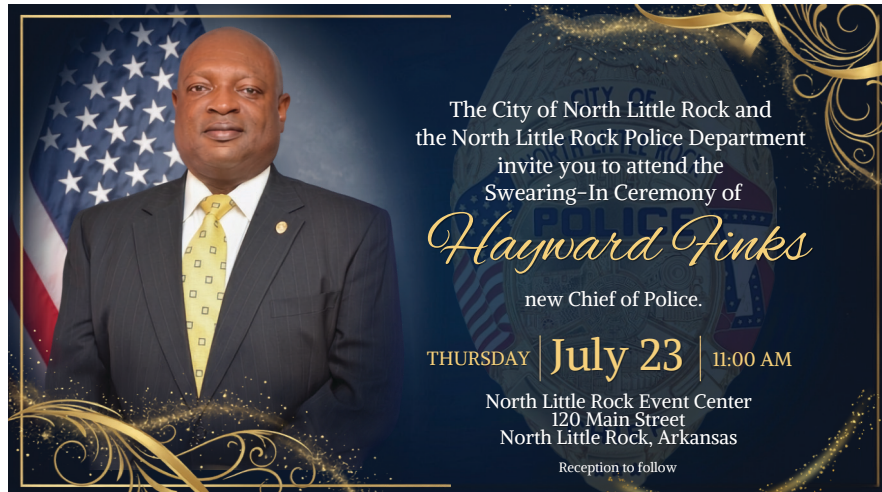
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Police Chief Patrick Thessing Retires

North Little Rock Police Chief Patrick Thessing has retired after serving the citizens of North Little Rock for 31 years. Chief Thessing grew up in Levy and, during his years of service to our city, earned the respect of officers and the community. He began in the Patrol Division and quickly moved to the Investigations Division, where he worked for six years before transferring to Training. While in the Training Department, Chief Thessing was promoted to Sergeant, where he worked in both Patrol and Professional Standards. Thessing's promotion to Lieutenant placed him in Patrol again and also provided him with an opportunity to lead the department's accreditation, where he attained the rank of Captain. In January of 2021, Mayor Terry Hartwick appointed Thessing as Chief of Police. Under Chief Thessing's leadership, the City of North Little Rock has implemented the Real-Time Crime Center, expanded the use of technology, and created the Joint Police Academy to grow and sustain our police department. Chief Thessing, you have definitely left a positive impact on our police department and our city! We will miss you! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement! 



New Chief of Police



Mayor Terry Hartwick has appointed Hayward Finks as the next Chief of Police for the City of North Little Rock. "We are honored to have Chief Finks serve as Chief of Police for our city. He is a proven, professional leader with uncompromising devotion to customer service and community safety. I believe he is an exemplary choice as our next police chief." Chief Finks has 38 years of service: 26 years as a supervisor with the Little Rock Police Department, nine years as a Captain, and 10 years as an Assistant Chief of Police.

During the last four years, Finks has served as the Director of Safety Services in the North Little Rock School District, an integral role in the success of our community. Finks possesses extensive experience in emergency services management, public safety, community-oriented policing, investigations, personnel affairs, staff development, and asset protection. "I am elated to be chosen to lead the brave men and women of the North Little Rock Police Department. I look forward to meeting with members of the community and beginning the process of moving the department forward," shared Finks. Chief Finks, an honor graduate, possesses a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Services Management and has completed numerous senior-level institutes and academies. Chief Finks was the first black Sergeant of Narcotics in the Little Rock Police Department and also the first black Captain in the Special Investigations Division. Chief Finks will be the first black chief of police in the City of North Little Rock. The community is invited to attend a formal swearing-in and reception on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., at the North Little Rock Events Center, 120 Main Street. 



The North Heights Community Garden is thriving this season, with gardeners harvesting an abundance of fresh vegetables from the raised beds. The garden continues to be a vibrant community space where residents can grow food, learn new skills, and build connections with their neighbors. Interested in getting involved? Join the North Heights Garden Club by contacting the North Heights Community Center at 501-791-8576 for more information.



Scan the QR code to sign up and become part of the growing movement.

North Little Rock Academy teachers joined Garden Technician Josh Russell for a hands-on lesson in tomato trellising using the Florida weave method. The school garden, planted and maintained by students and staff, continues to serve as an outdoor classroom where learning and growing go hand in hand.

Community gardens thrive because of dedicated volunteers. By donating a few hours of your time, you can help grow fresh produce, beautify neighborhoods, and support local families. Ready to get involved? 



PATRICK HENRY HAYS SENIOR CENTER

The Hays Center is a vibrant, 60,000 square-foot community hub – one of the largest senior activity centers in Arkansas – dedicated to active living, connection, and full-span engagement.

The Hays Center offers a wide range of programs, fitness classes, events, and activities designed to keep adults 50+ healthy, social, and inspired!

MAKING WAVES IN WELLNESS

TWO INDOOR POOLS - YEAR ROUND ACCESS - ENDLESS BENEFITS

- ✓ Dedicated Lap Swimming Pool
- ✓ Dedicated Water Aerobics Pool

Both pools provide safe, comfortable environments to stay active, healthy, and engaged throughout the year!

 **Membership: \$45/year**
***Must be 50+**

Hours:
8:00am-4:30pm

Your Best Chapter Starts Here.



 501-975-4297

Scan to view



The PHHSC Website

Visit NLR **Parks**





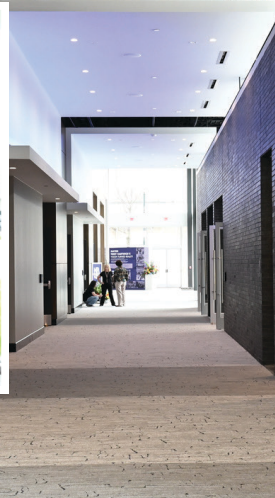
NORTH LITTLE ROCK EVENT CENTER



Call 501-975-8866 or email nlreventcenter@nlr.ar.gov to book for any occasion.



Guests to Date: 16,953
Events to Date: 69





AIRSHOW

Returns October 3-4

The skies above North Little Rock will come alive this fall as the 2026 North Little Rock Airshow returns for an action-packed weekend, October 3-4, 2026. Built with families at the heart of everything we do, this premier family-friendly event features thrilling aerial performances, a car show, and a full lineup of attractions designed for everyone!

This highly anticipated Central Arkansas Airshow showcases dynamic aerial performers delivering precision flying, powerful maneuvers, and unforgettable sky choreography. Saturday evening's night airshow on October 3 adds an extra layer of spectacle, combining aviation performance with fireworks and dramatic lighting effects for a truly unique after-dark experience. The excitement continues Sunday with a day airshow on October 4, offering clear views of aircraft capabilities and pilot skill under the Arkansas sky.

On the ground, attendees can explore a wide variety of static-display aircraft, offering an up-close look at military, civilian, warbirds, and one-of-a-kind specialty aircraft. These displays offer a rare chance to meet pilots, ask questions, and learn more about aviation technology and history. Beyond aviation, the North Little Rock Airshow delivers a full festival atmosphere! A car show, led by All 'bout Carz, will



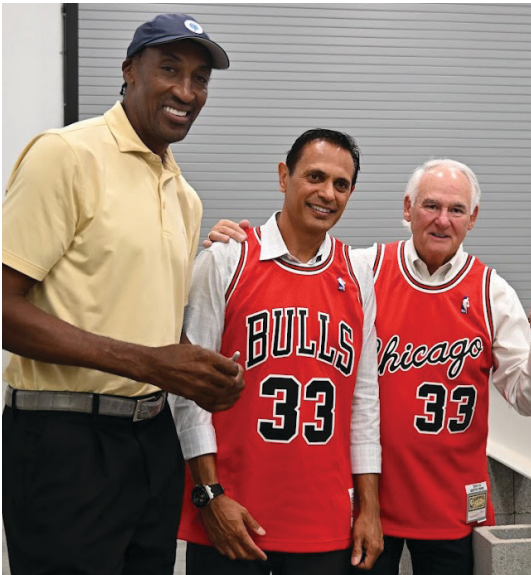
feature classic cars, modern builds, and custom vehicles, giving automotive enthusiasts plenty to admire. Families can also explore the FREE Kids Zone, packed with bounce houses and interactive activities tailored for younger guests.

The event also emphasizes education and innovation through hands-on STEM activities, encouraging curiosity and bringing experiences designed to inspire the next generation of engineers, pilots, and problem-solvers. Learn more about Aviation in Arkansas and interact with pilots who fly the skies over you. A wide selection of vendors selling unique items will be on-site throughout the weekend, offering everything from aviation-themed merchandise to local crafts. Guests can also indulge in classic fair food favorites, including sweet treats and savory staples that complete the airshow experience.

All this for \$20 with kids 12 and under free! Be a part of the action and nonstop family fun! Get your tickets now at <https://nlrairshow.com/tickets> and follow us on social media for updates. Contact David Repp for more information at (501) 804-4524 or airshownlr@gmail.com 

Progress continues in

With the final beam now in place, we've reached a major milestone in the construction of TEMPO by Hilton in Argenta! This exciting moment marks the completion of the building's structural framework and signals our transition to the next phase of construction: working on the interior walls to move into the dry. As work continues on the interior, we're one step closer to bringing this vibrant new addition to the Argenta community to life! 



North Little Rock



The future home of Willy D's Dueling Pianos is taking shape as Mulhearn Construction continues making strong progress on the project. With the steel structure now visible on both levels, crews are advancing structural work, exterior framing, and utility infrastructure as the building moves into its next phase. Willy D's Dueling Pianos remains on track for a Fall 2026 opening in North Little Rock's Argenta Entertainment District. The new venue will bring high-energy dueling piano entertainment, dining, and nightlife to the district, just steps from Simmons Bank Arena.

Construction is progressing well, with major sitework and underground utilities now substantially complete. Building footers were poured in late April, and underground plumbing and electrical work were completed in May. The project is currently transitioning from foundation work into the next phases, including structural framing and vertical construction. Overall, the Aloft hotel project remains on track and continues to move forward into the vertical development stage. Estimated completion is targeted for the end of 2027.



Nabholz Properties is also finalizing our revised conceptual design for the third building in The Arena District, a 6,300 square foot restaurant/bar and/or entertainment venue on lot 6B between the Aloft hotel and Willy D's. We have the flexibility to lease the building, partner with the tenant on ownership, or sell the lot to an owner/user or investor, subject to conditions on completion and other design criteria.

Central Fire Station

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the grand opening to celebrate this milestone and show support for the North Little Rock Fire Department. Located in the Mid City neighborhood, the new 24,500-square-foot station enhances public safety with faster response times, expanded crew quarters, and a 24-hour Safe Haven Baby Box. The original Central Fire Station, located at Maple and Seventh Streets in North Little Rock, was built in 1962.

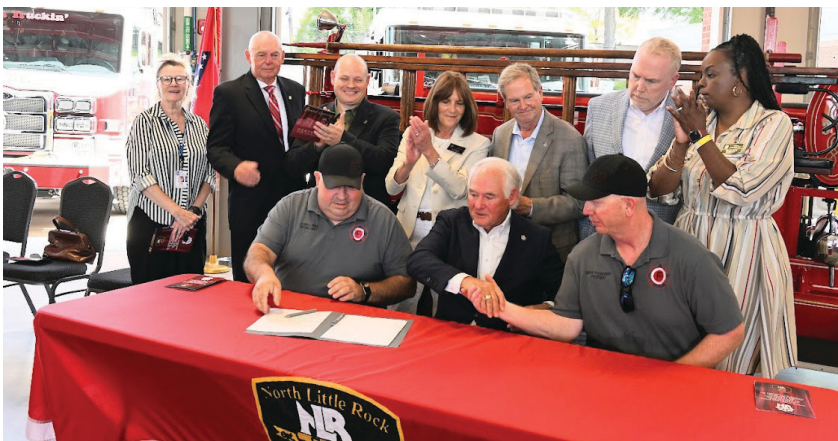
Other modern amenities include: a safe room in the turnout storage room, six bays, an inside mechanics' shop, 14 bedrooms, 10 restrooms, covered parking for reserve apparatus and special operations trailers, a dedicated gym, and a hot/warm/cold zone to keep carcinogens out of the living area. The team of Jackson Brown, Palculict Architects and Alessi Keyes Construction did an amazing job of capturing the vision. Central Fire Station is the final project in a series of new and renovated stations funded by the half-cent sales tax, a testament to our community's commitment to public safety. We are grateful to our citizens for helping North Little Rock continue to grow stronger and safer. 



Scan for a tour of the new station.



Grand Opening



HONORING NORTH LITTLE ROCK'S FINEST

The North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce recently honored first responders in our city. We are so thankful for their service.

North Little Rock Police Department

- ◆ Medal of Valor – Officer Nathaniel Coffman (pictured below)
- ◆ Leadership – Sergeant Tyler Loudon (second picture below)
- ◆ Team Achievement Award – NLRPD Chaplains Team



North Little Rock Fire Department

- ◆ Apprentice Firefighter of the Year – Firefighter Carter Cochran (pictured below)
- ◆ Firefighter of the Year – Captain Nick Frey
- ◆ Chiefs Award – Battalion Chief Mark Shoemaker (on left, second picture below)



North Little Rock Emergency Services

- ◆ Merit Award – Leeann Sadler
- ◆ Leadership Award – Darian Strong
- ◆ Team Award – NLR Emergency Services Department (pictured below)



CHI St. Vincent Special Awards Presentation

- ◆ Acts of Human Kindness Award – NLRFD Captain Bryan Hill (on right, picture above)



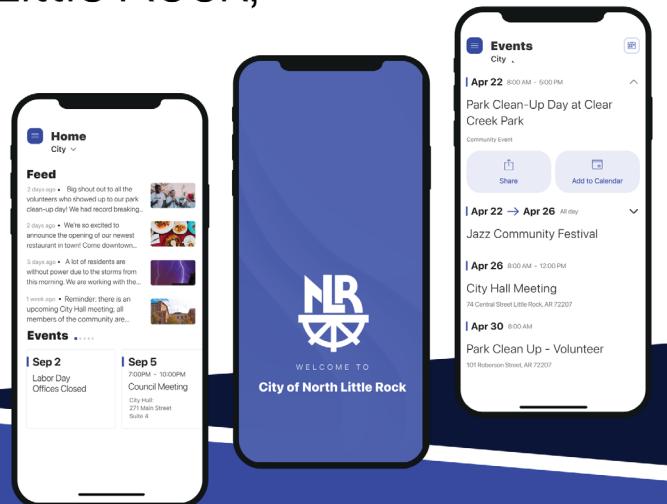
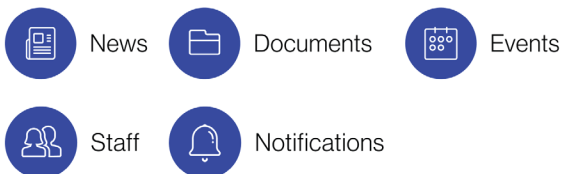
HELP US STAY SAFE!

If you see our crews working on public roads:

- Pay attention
- Drop distractions
- Move over for workers
- Obey the speed limit

Safe driving in work areas helps keep everyone safe!

It's everything City of North Little Rock,
in your pocket.



Download the **City of North Little Rock** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.

ALUMNI Spotlight



Anna Lee Bolding, Charging Wildcats Class of 2022, recently graduated from the University of Arkansas, finishing in the top 20 out of 6,000 graduates. Anna was selected as one of the 300 Seniors of Significance in the 2026 University of Arkansas graduating class. Anna is also a recipient of the Razorback Classic, a prestigious award recognizing the top 20 graduating seniors for exceptional leadership, academic achievement, and campus/community involvement. Anna will head to Boston, Massachusetts, in the fall for a two-year stint as a member of a research team in one of Harvard University's Medical Research Labs. Upon completion of the two-year research lab commitment, Anna will pursue an MD-PhD dual-degree program combining a Doctor of Medicine (clinical practice) and a Doctor of Philosophy (scientific research). 

Mayor's Youth Council



Students visiting at Blossoms Nursing Home.



Students with Mayor Hartwick at the Old Mill's 50th Anniversary.



North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council End of the Year Banquet. Six students received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Students volunteering at the North Little Rock Animal Shelter with Mrs. Phyllis and Oscar.

COMMUNITY Scholarships

Arkansas Scholars Program sponsored by the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce

The Arkansas Scholars program, an initiative of the Arkansas Business and Education Alliance and supported locally by the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, is designed to equip students with the skills and mindset needed for success beyond high school by setting clear, real-world expectations that align with both college and career readiness; through maintaining strong attendance, achieving solid academic performance, completing a recommended core curriculum, and demonstrating positive behavior. Students develop essential habits such as discipline, accountability, and reliability—qualities highly valued by employers and higher education institutions—while also gaining a deeper understanding of the connection between classroom success and future opportunities, ultimately positioning them to transition confidently into the workforce, pursue continued education, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Each year, seniors in the Arkansas Scholars program are recognized at a banquet, and this year, 11 students were awarded scholarships:

- ◆ Ciriah Dunn - The Hicks Family Alice Hicks Scholarship
- ◆ Sy'riyah Jarrett – North Little Rock Wildcat Foundation Scholarship
- ◆ Noah Butler – Alessi Keyes Construction Scholarship
- ◆ Nadia Gordeeva - Mayor Terry C. Hartwick Scholarship
- ◆ Ashton Conley - Tru Service Community Federal Credit Union Scholarship
- ◆ Athena Croon - Taggart Architects Scholarship
- ◆ Jordan Brown - Baptist Health Medical Center Scholarship
- ◆ Chloe Gorbet – North Little Rock Public Education Foundation Scholarship
- ◆ Gabriella Martinez - Russell Chevrolet Scholarship
- ◆ Haileigh Robertson - The Hughes Agency Scholarship
- ◆ Elicia Shepherd - McLarty Automotive Group Scholarship 

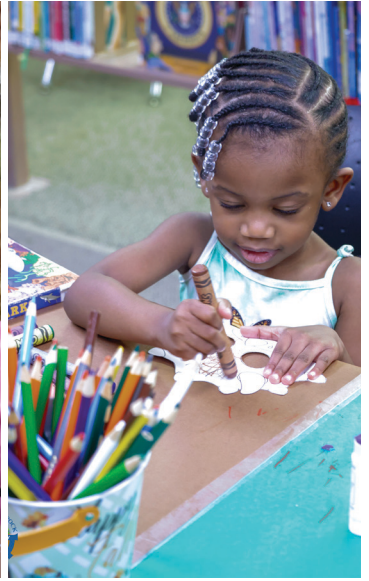


North Little Rock Elks Lodge Scholarships

The North Little Rock Elks Lodge continues to support the youth in our city. Since 2013, members have donated over \$130,000 in scholarships to 205 graduating seniors. This year, 20 seniors received scholarships totaling \$12,250. We are thankful for the support of the North Little Rock Elks Lodge and their investment in these future leaders. 



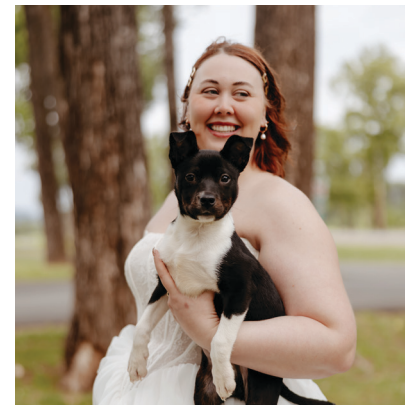
Check out your **LIBRARY**



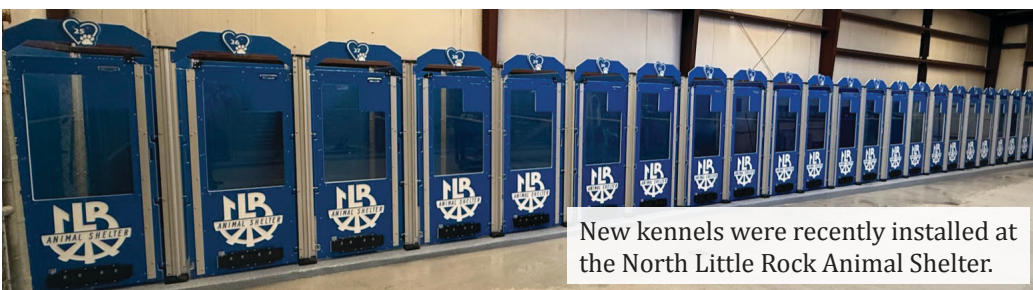
Animals in our City



Employees from Hogan Taylor LLC recently visited the North Little Rock Animal Shelter, helped clean and care for the animals, and took some of the dogs out for playtime and activities.



Dogs available for adoption were recently photographed in partnership with the Bridal Cottage in North Little Rock by photographer Megan Hall. All of the dogs have been adopted. Arianna is pictured with the bride.



New kennels were recently installed at the North Little Rock Animal Shelter.



BEFORE

If you are interested in adopting an animal or volunteering at the shelter, please call 501-791-8577 or email animalservices@nlr.ar.gov 

ARGENTA VIBE MUSIC SERIES

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

FEATURING BELLA RAYNE BAND | SEPT 19
WITH AMY GARLAND



ARGENTA PLAZA | 6:30 PM

DOGTOWN
THROWDOWN



NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR

SEPT 11 & SEPT 12

3rd
FRIDAY
ART
WALK
SEPT 18



ARGENTA
DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

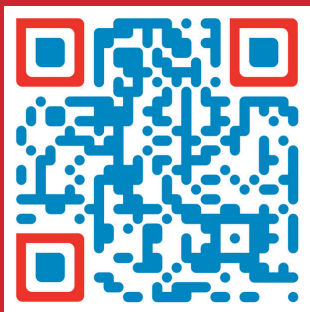


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *North Little Rock!*

Your Dog.
Our Next
Northern
Lights Shirt.



Enter for a chance for your furry
friend to be featured!



NorthLittleRock.org
@ExploreNLR



A portion of proceeds benefit
NLR Friends of the Animals!



A Celebration of the Old Mill!

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, the Old Mill and T.R. Pugh Memorial Park celebrated 50 years as a North Little Rock Park (the Old Mill, which was dedicated on August 6, 1933, was given to North Little Rock by the former Justin Matthews Company on May 24, 1976). We don't have an official count, but it looked like several hundred visitors enjoyed the festivities. Visitors were encouraged to dress in 1970s-era clothes, and music from the 1970s played, so we had folks in groovy outfits digging the vibe! Mayor Terry Hartwick proclaimed May 16 as "Old Mill Day" in honor of the 50th Anniversary as a City Park. A native serviceberry tree was planted in memory of Sandra Taylor Smith, the late NLR Historian, who was also a founding member of FOM. North Little Rock Tourism sold Old Mill items, with a portion of the proceeds going to FOM for improvements to the park.



North Little Rock Tourism offers guided tours of the Old Mill for groups of 25 or more people who are lodging overnight at a North Little Rock hotel or RV park and have made an advance tour reservation. These tours are conducted by trained volunteers from North Little Rock Tourism and Friends of the Old Mill (FOM). For smaller groups, FOM makes every effort to offer guided tours as guides are available. If you know of a group that would like a guided tour of the Old Mill, please contact NLR Tourism by calling 501-758-1424 or emailing info@northlittlerock.org. If you would like to help with guided tours, please contact Valerie Boyce at valerie.boyce61@gmail.com. We will provide training materials and do one-on-one training. As tourism receives tour requests, we work with volunteers to see who is available and usually aim to have at least two volunteers per tour. It's truly an honor to show off the Old Mill and educate visitors about its history. 🌲



North Little Rock Contact Information

Mayor	Terry C. Hartwick	501-975-8601	mayor@nlr.ar.gov
City Clerk/Treasurer	Diane Whitbey	501-975-8617	cityclerkoffice@nlr.ar.gov
City Attorney	Amy Fields	501-975-3755	nlrlegal@nlr.ar.gov
Judge (Traffic)	Judge Randy Morley	501-791-8562	melinda.johnson@nlrpolice.org
Judge (Criminal/Civil)	Judge Paula Juels Jones	501-791-8559	christina.bowen@nlrpolice.org
Chief of Staff	Mike Davis	501-975-8601	mdavis@nlr.ar.gov
City Council			
Ward 1 Council Member	Nathan Hamilton	501-952-7679	nhamilton@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 1 Council Member	Debi Ross	501-753-0733	dross@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Linda Robinson	501-945-8820	lrobinson@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Nicole Hart	501-960-2461	nhart@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 3 Council Member	Steve Baxter	501-804-0928	sbaxter@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 3 Council Member	Ron Harris	501-758-2877	ronharris@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Vince Insalaco III	501-951-0786	vinsalaco@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Scott Fowler	501-765-5868	sfowler@nlr.ar.gov
Departments			
Airport	Virginia Young	501-835-5654	vyoung@nlr.ar.gov
Animal Control	Adam Tindall	501-791-8577	animalservices@nlr.ar.gov
Code Enforcement	Felecia McHenry	501-791-8581	codedirector@nlr.ar.gov
Communications	Shara Hutchcraft	501-975-8833	shutchcraft@nlr.ar.gov
Community Development	Bailey Noland	501-340-5342	bnoland@nlr.ar.gov
Economic Development	Colleen Bailey	501-442-5329	cbailey@nlr.ar.gov
Electric	Ryan Wilson	501-975-8888	custserv@nlr.ar.gov
Emergency Services	Kim Francisco	501-340-5365	emergencyservices@nlr.ar.gov
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Finance	Anita Worley	501-906-6332	nlrfinance@nlr.ar.gov
Fire	Gerald Tucker	501-340-5385	nlrfd@nlr.ar.gov
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History Commission	Kelli Peters	501-371-0755	nlrhistory@nlr.ar.gov
Housing (Northbridge)	Yulunda White	501-758-8911	director@northbridgehs.org
Human Resources	Betty Anderson	501-975-8855	banderson@nlr.ar.gov
Library	Crystal Gates	501-758-1720	crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org
Mayor's Office	Stacia Chastain	501-975-8601	schastain@nlr.ar.gov
Mayor's Volunteer Services	Angela Wirt	501-906-6268	awirt@nlr.ar.gov
Mayor's Youth Council	Jill Mills	501-804-8950	jillmillsnlrmvc@yahoo.com
Neighborhood Services & Community Gardens	Dan Scott	501-791-8500	nlrneighborhoodserv@nlr.ar.gov
Parks & Recreation	Kenny Stephens	501-791-8538	kastephens@nlr.ar.gov
Planning	Shawn Spencer	501-975-8835	sspencer@nlr.ar.gov
Police	Hayward Finks	501-771-7102	nlrpd@nlrpolice.org
Safety	Kenny Stephens	501-371-8337	safety1@nlr.ar.gov
Sanitation	Condo Breedlove	501-371-8340	nlrsanitation@nlr.ar.gov
Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center	Jim Scott	501-366-3289	jscott@nlr.ar.gov
Special Projects	Dr. Arnessa Bennett	501-975-3737	abennett@nlr.ar.gov
Street	Patrick Lane	501-340-5355	nlrstreet@nlr.ar.gov
Traffic	Kenny Stephens	501-340-5352	traffic@nlr.ar.gov
Training Development & Fit2Live	David Baxter	501-975-8842	dbaxter@nlr.ar.gov
Tourism	Karen Trevino	501-758-1424	karen@northlittlerock.org
Unsheltered Community	Officer Shana Cobbs	501-975-8780	nlrunsheltered@nlr.ar.gov
Vehicle Maintenance	Kenny Brock	501-340-5371	nlrgarage@nlr.ar.gov