

north little rock **PROUD**

Winter 2019, Vol. 02, No. 01

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office

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PROJECT UPDATES
WHO LEADS NEXT?
PLAZA = JOBS!



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On the Cover—City Hall with beautiful snow covering the street at night. Taken winter of 2016. Photo by Jim Billings.



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PROUD

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Sherman Park


Community Spotlight

Stop by the 8th St. Baptist Church on the 3rd Monday of the month, and you will find one of the most active and engaged community groups in North Little Rock. Dan Scott of Neighborhood Services states, “They are a classic neighborhood association. They are not just focused on their neighborhood; they care about all of North Little Rock.” This is evident in the community events they hold. One of the biggest events they held this past year was a candidate forum. Over 20 city and statewide candidates showed up to answer questions from potential voters. This was key for the North Little Rock voting public to hear face to face what the candidates felt on specific issues. It was well organized and well attended by citizens from all over North Little Rock. From National Night Out events to Sherman Park Days, this group is all about community engagement. National Night Out is an annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make the neighborhoods safer. It provides an excellent opportunity for



communities and police to be brought together under favorable circumstances. A focal point of the community as a whole is the Sherman Park Recreation Center. Many young people have cut their teeth playing youth basketball at the venerable courts of the center. Summertime fun is enjoyed at the great outdoor pool facility and all year round they host great community events.

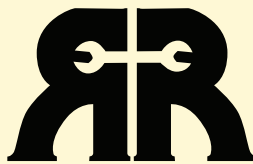
Community leader Artis Boykin wants a legacy to be left of service and

action that excites future generations. “This younger generation is where our future leaders will come from, we need them active now to know their voice matters in the community,” states Boykin. “We need to give them that little push to get involved.” Partnering with local churches, Shorter College and local business the Sherman Park Neighborhood Association strives to see their community thrive now and in the future. 

Only on the web...



Visit us at nlr.ar.gov for the latest on what's happening in your city and tons of info and shortcuts to services!



Send in your requests using our Report and Repair system and get email confirmation of when your issue has been addressed. Follow the “report a problem” link on our homepage or download the app.



View the 2019 city budget at nlr.ar.gov/finance. It has much more detailed information than could be presented in a magazine. Dig in and send us your suggestions to rbirch@nlr.ar.gov!



Burns Park – View our new video about NLR’s amazing Back Yard. Learn about all the fun things to do in the best municipal park in the state!

Your vote made a difference

NLRPROUD



Milling and overlay work on E. Washington (Ward 2)

Timeline of the NLR Proud Projects

- ◆ August 2017 – Voters approved 1 cent sales tax increase
- ◆ October - December 2017 – Staff Planning Meetings on PROUD Projects
- ◆ January 2018 – State begins collecting sales tax increase
- ◆ February 2018 – Fire Station Assessment Meeting
- ◆ March 2018 – City receives first funds from sales tax increase
- ◆ April 2018 – Consultants hired for Police HQ
- ◆ April 2018 – Repair work begins on Station #4
- ◆ May 2018 – Annual Street Overlay program approved
- ◆ June 2018 – Architects hired for Fire Station #7 remodel
- ◆ Summer 2018 – Street Overlay Program begins
- ◆ Fall 2018 – Planning begins on 2019 PROUD Projects

NLRPROUD

Projects Update

Safer Homes. Better Streets. Prouder City!

When the residents of North Little Rock made a choice to invest in their community back in the summer of 2017, they did so with hope of making a positive impact for the future of North Little Rock. NLR voters approved the one cent sales tax increase because city leaders promised more street and drainage repairs, fire station remodels, and a new police and courts headquarters. That choice is making a difference.

The Mayor and City Council advocated for the new revenue because NLR faced a decision. Our city could continue to rely on patching issues while stretching dollars to the breaking point, or we could decide as a

community to invest in our neighborhood infrastructure and pave the way for a better future. The investment is making a difference.



"We're able to get deep into the neighborhoods now, not just the main roads, but streets in front of our resident's houses."

Mayor Joe Smith

We're providing this update on the NLR PROUD Projects so residents can keep tabs on how their tax dollars are being used. We'll list the street projects, the fire station repairs, and the drainage issues. Readers will learn

about the new fire stations planned and the process involved with construction of a \$30 million new police and courts building. We'll try and give you a better sense of how the process works.

Not everyone will agree on which streets need the most attention or how much to spend on new fire stations or the police building, and we know we will never have enough money to fix every issue. Email addresses for every elected official and department director are listed on the inside back page of this magazine. We want to hear your opinions, criticisms, and suggestions. If you think we're on the right track, feel free to share that as well. We hope that transparency will make a difference.

These are **your** voter approved NLR PROUD Projects. The City Council and Mayor's office are doing their best to deliver on every promise made to **you**. Your tax dollars are being used as investments for **your** communities. Every ward of **your** city is seeing improvements

Each year our city spends \$500,000 on a street overlay program. Each ward also receives \$75,000 to assess issues in their respective neighborhoods. It's enough to make sure the worst of the issues are repaired and keeps the main thoroughfares in pretty good condition. But thanks to the voter approved NLR PROUD Project, an additional \$500,000 each year will be appropriated for **each** of our four wards – five times the usual amount! This will happen every year until 2022, when the sales tax increase expires.

The process for selecting which streets get repaired begins in our City

Engineer's office. Those professionals have an assessment on every street in the city and maintain a list of repairs that need to be done. They make their recommendations on priorities to the Mayor's office and the City Council Members. Each City Council Member, after getting feedback and suggestions from residents, has meetings with the City Engineers and a final list is put together for our annual street overlay project. The project is put out to bid and work begins in late spring.

The following page shows a list of the funds allocated in 2018 and the projects that have been paid for. Actual amounts spent each year vary due to several issues: future projects in planning that require some current funds to be set aside at this time, bigger projects that have design work still to be completed, and state and federal grant match funds. Most projects were completed in 2018, but a few are still in final design stage though money has been appropriated (Ward 3 has a few of these).



Difference between the old and the new on Justin Matthews Dr. (Ward 4)



"We've never been able to repair this many streets in one year. Not even close."

*Chris Wilbourn,
NLR City Engineer*



Large drainage improvement project on Magnolia St. (Ward 1)

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Streets and Drainage

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Marion from 16th to 18th.

Ward 1 (TOTAL \$741,000)

- ◆ Marion, from 16th to 18th
- ◆ Magnolia St., Drainage Improvements
- ◆ West 22nd, from Main to Percy Machin
- ◆ Schaer, from 33rd to 36th
- ◆ Avondale, from Lakeview to Waterside
- ◆ Magnolia, from 19th to 21st
- ◆ 43rd, from Pike to Schaer
- ◆ Mellene, from 38th to 44th
- ◆ Intersection of Hillside and Maple
- ◆ Pine, from E to G
- ◆ Justin Matthews, from North Hills to McCain
- ◆ Edgemere, from McCain to Fairway
- ◆ 38th, from Orange to Willow
- ◆ West 18th, from Main to Percy Machin
- ◆ Percy Machin, from 18th to 20th
- ◆ Cherry Hill, from Magnolia to JFK
- ◆ Pavement management assessment program



Poe Street Drainage improvements.

Ward 2 (TOTAL \$803,000)

- ◆ East Washington, from Main to Verizon Arena Entrance
- ◆ Lynch, from Kay to I-440
- ◆ Bishop Lindsey Streetscape improvements
- ◆ Poe, street and drainage improvements
- ◆ Parker Street, and drainage improvements
- ◆ Colonel Maynard, from Hwy 165 to levee
- ◆ Stonehedge, from Live Oak to Wicker
- ◆ Ben, from Ira to 19th
- ◆ Glenview, from Edmonds to Young
- ◆ West 18th, from Crutcher to Pike
- ◆ West 12th, from Frank to Vestal
- ◆ Pavement management assessment program



39th street and drainage improvements from Burks to Hays Ct.

Ward 3 (TOTAL \$ 440,000)

- ◆ 58th, from Alta Vista to Shamrock
- ◆ West Avalon, from Floral to MacArthur
- ◆ Crutcher, from 36th to MacArthur
- ◆ 55th Terrace, from Crescent to Allen
- ◆ 39th, street and drainage improvements from Burks to Hays Ct.
- ◆ 47th, street and drainage improvements from Camp Robinson to Pike (design phase)
- ◆ 47th, street and drainage improvements, Pike to Division (design phase)
- ◆ 50th, street and drainage improvements from Camp to Allen (design phase)
- ◆ Shilcott's Bayou Drainage improvements (design phase)
- ◆ ADFA/Habitat for Humanity match (design phase)
- ◆ Pavement management assessment program



Mission Road Drainage improvements.

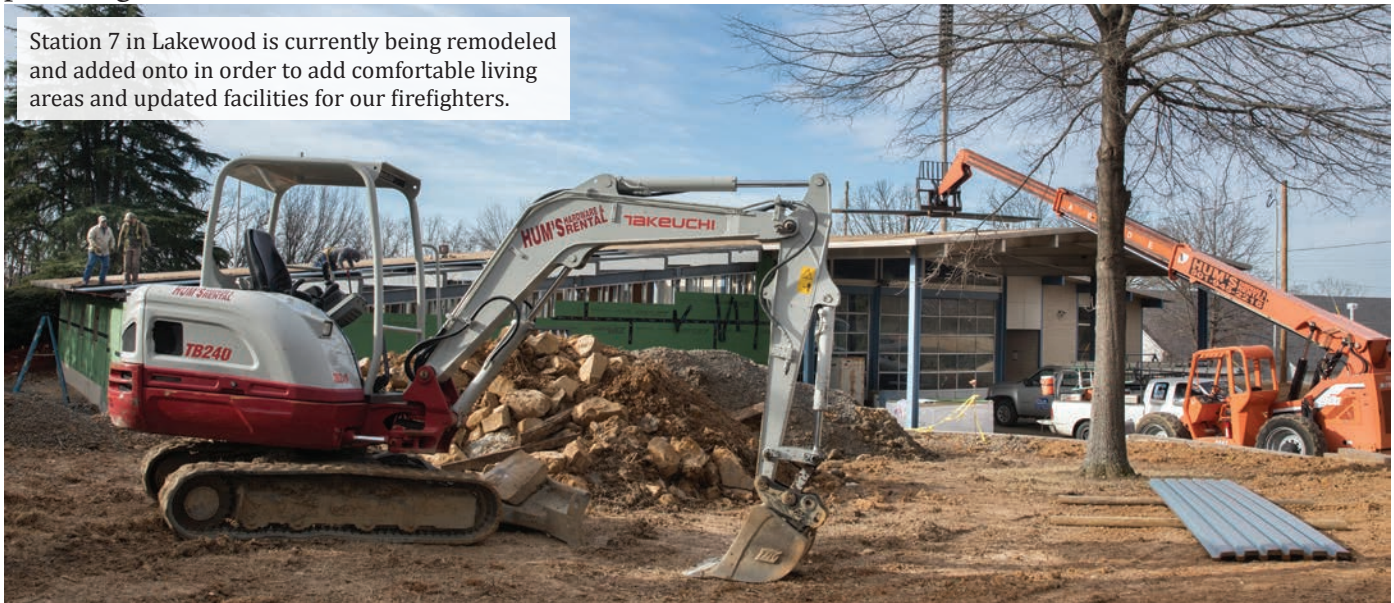
Ward 4 (TOTAL \$571,000)

- ◆ Remount, from Spriggs to Maryland
- ◆ Maryland, from Remount to City Limits
- ◆ Randolph, from JFK to Crestwood
- ◆ Sagamore, from Ocoola to War Eagle
- ◆ Tanglewood, from Camp Robinson to Hacienda
- ◆ Hacienda, from Tanglewood to Latona
- ◆ Saratoga, from Comanche to Aztec
- ◆ Fairway, from Crestwood to Somers
- ◆ Crestwood, from North Hills to Fairway
- ◆ Parkstone Circle, from Commercial to Commercial
- ◆ Mission Road, drainage improvements
- ◆ Fairway and Crestwood concrete pavement rehabilitation
- ◆ South Endsquick Court, concrete pavement rehabilitation
- ◆ Pavement management assessment program

Over the next five years every one of our 11 fire stations will receive repair or remodel work with \$10 million in funding from the voter approved NLR PROUD Projects. In 2018 construction was begun or completed on three stations with planning in the works for several more.

Fire

Station 7 in Lakewood is currently being remodeled and added onto in order to add comfortable living areas and updated facilities for our firefighters.



Fire Station #1 – Central Station, Downtown
Future project

Fire Station #2 – Rose City, East Broadway
2019 Project, in planning and design phase

Fire Station #3 – Baring Cross, 15th and Schaer
Future Project

Fire Station #4 – West NLR, Maumelle Blvd.
New flooring, new commercial stove, roof and water leak work to be completed in 2019

Fire Station #5 – Park Hill, Magnolia St.
Future project

Fire Station #6 – Levy, Camp Robinson
Site selected for new larger, modern station at 3919 Pike, architect and construction manager selected

Fire Station #7 – Lakewood, McCain
Remodel work begun on new bedrooms, living area, storage, and kitchen; work to be completed in 2019

Fire Station #8 – Amboy, MacArthur
Future Project

Fire Station #9 – Indian Hills, JFK
Future project

Fire Station #10 – I-440 and Hwy 70 East
2019 project, in planning and design phase

Fire Station #11 – East NLR, Baucum Pike
Station taken off septic tank system and new sewer line installed and connected. Property no longer leased, but has been purchased outright by the city



"We needed this. Our stations are getting upgrades that will provide comfort for our firefighters and better service to the public."

Chief Gerald Tucker, North Little Rock Fire Department

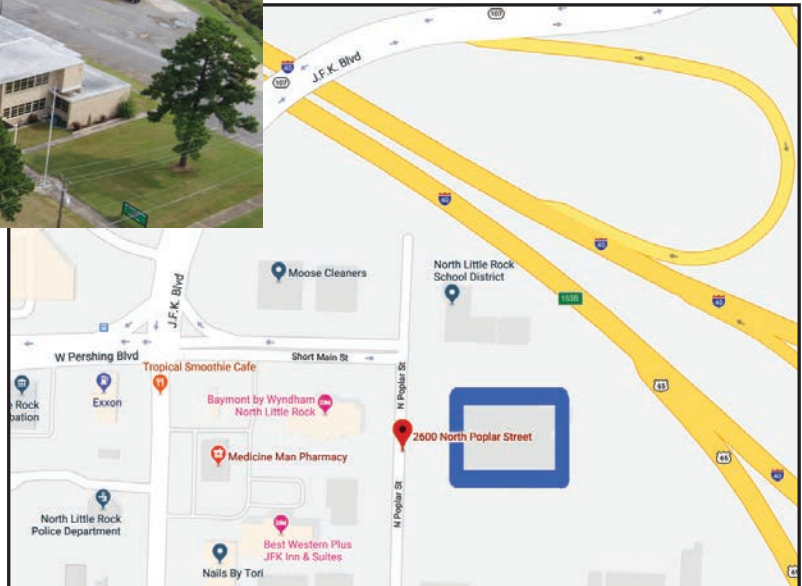
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Police

Following voter approval of the NLR PROUD Projects, the police department and Mayor's office began a detailed needs assessment for the department. We haven't built a police building in the last half century and many things have changed, from security protocols, employee facilities, technology upgrades, storage requirements, etc. In short – we needed to know what we didn't know. After further investigation into the requirements of a new police and courts building, the amount needed for property purchase, design, engineering and construction was determined to be greater than the \$20 million dedicated from the NLR PROUD Project fund. The City Council decided in December 2018 to supplement that original amount by borrowing an additional \$10 million for a total cost of \$30 million.

In early 2018, we enlisted the services of a consultant who has extensive experience with several new police building construction projects across the nation. Using the knowledge gained from several site visits to other similar sized departments and the valuable experience of our consultant company, we put out a nationwide request for qualifications from architects. Hoefler & Wysocki, of Kansas City, KS, partnering with local firm RPPY Architects of Little Rock, was selected in November 2018. This architect firm has designed several police



Site selected for new Police and Courts building.




"Our goal is to build a Police and Courts building our city can be proud of. We've got a lot of work to do on such a big project, but we're gonna make sure we do it the right way."

Chief Mike Davis, North Little Rock Police Department

buildings recently and bring much needed expertise to the project. They are now at work designing the initial plans for the building.

The site of the Army National Guard Armory, at 2600 N. Poplar St., has been selected for the new police and courts building. The property was owned by the NLR School District and leased by the Army National Guard. The city negotiated to purchase the property which included the current school district administration building, in exchange for \$500,000 and the current property of the police administration building and patrol headquarters near the corner of Main St. and Pershing.

Demolition of the armory will begin in the next month and construction will begin once the architect's plans are approved by the City Council later this year. 

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Recycling

This year will see some changes to the way North Little Rock residents recycle. Following a long negotiation process in 2018, the City Council agreed to a new contract with Waste Management (WM) to continue single stream recycling in our city. The Mayor and Council are pleased that we are able to retain a recycling program in North Little Rock, with some improvements of service and a relatively slight increase in cost to residents.

Before an agreement with WM was reached there were many concerns from residents, Council Members, and the Mayor about how the recycling program had been implemented over the past several years. Not every concern was able to be resolved, but a great deal of research revealed that the alternatives for now would be much too expensive and cumbersome on our community, and simply ceasing to offer recycling services was not the wish of our community.

The recycling industry has experienced significant upheavals in the past


few years. China used to be a major importer of our country's recyclable material, but following their decision to stop taking imported material that revenue is no longer an option. The market for recyclable glass has decreased to the point where it is no longer economically feasible for most companies to even process the material. Single stream recycling has contributed to the issue of more contamination of non-recyclable materials and created a problem of efficiency.



These complications aren't going away any time soon, and our contract with WM will run through March of 2021. We are not finished exploring how the service could be expanded and improved in the future. While cost will always be an issue to consider, we will continue to work on a better way to provide recycling services in North Little Rock and your input is welcomed and encouraged.

Recycling changes for residents (beginning April 1st, 2019)

- Monthly fee to increase to \$4.14 from \$2.99
- No glass material accepted

The city is working with the Regional Recycling and Waste Reduction District and Waste Management to implement new educational campaigns to reduce contamination in the recycle bins. To start, here is an update on how to Do Recycle Right. Do what the Mayor did – cut this out and stick it on your fridge! 

PUT IN THE CART

- ♦ **Paper:** newspaper (includes all inserts), magazines, catalogs, junk mail, mixed paper, soft-cover books, non-foil gift wrap, greeting cards
- ♦ **Plastic:** empty plastic bottles and containers #1-#5 and #7 (including tubs, lids and caps), mixed rigid plastics (laundry baskets, large plastic tubs, containers from potted plants)
- ♦ **Cardboard:** corrugated cardboard, phone books, paperboard, chip board (cereal boxes with coated liners removed, shoe boxes), empty food boxes with no plastic coating or food left inside, (all cardboard must be flattened and sized to fit in the cart)
- ♦ **Cans and Metal Cookware:** aluminum food and beverage containers, aluminum foil and pie tins, tin-coated steel food and beverage containers, empty aerosol cans, metal pots, pans and cookware (no glass lids)

REMINDER: *All food and drink containers should be emptied and rinsed.*

LEAVE OUT OF THE CART

- ♦ **Plastic Bags:** plastic shopping bags, trash bags, cleaner bags, wrap or plastic film and packing material
- ♦ **Garbage:** food waste, yard waste
- ♦ **Cords:** electrical cords, ropes, garden hoses, and anything that wraps around or tangles
- ♦ **Electronics:** TVs, computers, printers, copiers (for proper disposal, see Special Recycling – Electronic Waste – Residential)
- ♦ **Bulky and Extra-Heavy Items:** concrete, bricks, heavy scrap metal, furniture, mattresses
- ♦ **Hazardous and Toxic Fluids:** gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze
- ♦ **Styrofoam:** egg cartons, cups, packing materials (no Styrofoam of any kind)
- ♦ **Mirrors and window panes**

REMINDER: *When in doubt, leave it out!*

Who's up next?



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN, ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

At the most recent Arkansas Municipal League Conference in January, Mayor Smith was pleased to see a large increase in attendees who were under the age of 45 (pictured above with the Mayor). He thinks his initiative to get local elected officials involved in recruiting and training the next generation of municipal leaders is paying dividends!

I’ve been here for 25 years,” said Mayor Smith recently about his more than two decades of public service. And no doubt, many would agree, that type of career longevity certainly brings advantages of institutional knowledge, efficiency, and even the unpleasant experience from seeing what failed in the past. He’s not alone, with many City Council Members, Department Directors, and Board and Commission members all racking up impressive years of service to our city.

Having a finely tuned, experienced government institution is a huge asset to the public. Every government has aspects of routine day-to-day operations that serve the public, and professionalism and efficiency can save taxpayers time and money. But having such a wealth of experience brings its limitations as well.

“We’re lacking a certain perspective,” Mayor Smith said, standing before hundreds of Mayors, City Council Members, and other public servants from across the state. In his

inaugural speech as President of the Arkansas Municipal League, our Mayor laid out the perils of failing to prepare the next generation to take the reins of leadership. “The continuity of our fundamental political values and processes is critical to the stability and growth of our community.

“That continuity can only be secured by allowing and encouraging the younger generation of adults in our community to become engaged in the mechanics of our municipal government,” Smith told the audience. “It’s our moral and civic responsibility to ensure the next generation of community leaders are adequately equipped to understand and interpret the interaction between politics and policy.”

The younger generation of adults in our community is able to provide unique insights and direction concerning many items that come before the NLR City Council, especially, but not limited to, discussions and decisions surrounding technology, education, community planning, and social

recreation. Our city works better for everyone when it gets input from everyone.

“I spent the past few years wondering about the generation that comes after me,” he said. “I’m done wondering. I’m going out there, looking in every one of our neighborhoods, and finding them.”

Mayor Smith has asked each Council Member to provide him with names of several members from the neighborhoods in their wards, who could provide perspective from a different age bracket. In August of last year, Mayor Smith presented the Council with a resolution pledging that they would all seek out and encourage a younger generation to engage in our local political and governing process. It passed unanimously.

For more information on the City Council resolution, to suggest names of those who might be willing to learn and serve, or to get involved yourself, contact Nathan Hamilton in the Mayor’s Office at nhamilton@nlr.ar.gov

Get to know your NLR Employees

Kenny Stephens, Safety Director



You can find Kenny out in the city, making sure our employees are safe and private contractors are following through with clean up.

The lives of our employees are vital to the city; hence North Little Rock strives to provide maximum safety guidelines to all of its employees. The man who has spearheaded the effort for the last eight years is Kenny Stephens. Kenny is the city's Public Safety Director. Not only does he look out for the safety training of all departments, but he also makes sure that

work performed in the public right of way by other organizations or contractors follows our safety standards for the protection of our citizens.

"Initiative, ingenuity, hard work and timeliness, that's what Kenny brings to the Public Works Department," says Chief of Staff Danny Bradley who oversees the department for the Mayor. No matter how big or how small, Kenny will make sure the job gets done right. He has helped countless residents get their property repaired by contractors that have left clean up jobs incomplete or not done at all. Kenny is relentless when it comes to getting the job done right. Through rigorous safety training and an innovative approach to putting recovering workers on light duty, his department has reduced workplace accidents by 58% since 2010, saving

the taxpayers \$621,476 in workers compensation claims.

Kenny has served the City of North Little Rock for over 11 years. Before coming to the city, he spent 27 years working for Levi Strauss when he retired in 2006. He and his wife Kathy have been married for 37 years, and she works for the city as well as the Information Systems Manager in the Information Technology Department. They have one son, Kenny Jr., who was a North Little Rock Police officer before returning to school to become a teacher and is now a teacher and head football coach at Pinnacle Valley Middle School. Kenny and Kathy have two grandchildren Anthony and Addison that keep them busy! Kenny is also a veteran of the US Army serving in the 101st Airborne and held the rank of E-6 Staff Sergeant.

Officer Carmen Helton, NLRPD Recruiter

Integrity, accountability, responsiveness, quality of life, community and customer service are at the core of the North Little Rock Police Department's daily mission. Officer Carmen Helton exemplifies every one of these characteristics. She spearheads the recruitment of new officers for the NLRPD, but she also serves the community in so many other ways. "She has a huge heart for kids," states Chief Mike Davis of the NLRPD. "She was instrumental in starting the NLRPD summer youth camp in 2016". This camp provides many great opportunities for kids to spend the summer getting to see officers in a different setting. She is meeting them on a personal level and beginning to build a relationship with the next generation. As the camp coordinator, she has received a Letter of Commendation from Chief Davis. "The camp would not have been a success without your dedication and hard work related to this event," says

Chief Davis. She is passionate about community engagement, along with the summer camp, she and Sgt. Amy Cooper run the department's Twitter and Facebook accounts. One of the best features is the hilarious 9 p.m. routine daily reminders to lock your cars each night. The comedic messages have really helped reduced car break-ins according to Chief Davis. The other great use of social media has been the "Tip Tweets". The tips have helped solve numerous crimes. Partnering with the community assists the officers of the NLRPD.

Over her career, Officer Helton has received many accolades. Officer Helton serves on the Martin Luther King Commission, serves with United Cerebral Palsy, Tip a Cop, and the Special Olympics to name a few. This past summer Officer Helton represented North Little Rock in the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics Torch Run in Chicago. The Special



Community service is an integral part of Officer Helton's view of police work.

Olympics have always held a special spot in her heart; in fact, it was the torch run where she met her husband, Heath! Together they have four children, and they are a police family, her husband is a Captain for the Little Rock Police.

For more information on becoming an officer you can reach Officer Carmen Helton at 501-812-5106 or go to www.nlrpolice.org/recruitment.



Economic Development

What is it?

If you ask 100 people what economic development is, you will most likely get 100 different answers. Some would say job creation. Others could say community development, or education, workforce training, or business retention. All those are correct.

Economic development is a daily process to tie together all these aspects and many more to help create an environment of stability and growth in a community.

The most common task citizens think of when discussing economic development, is bringing in business and creating new jobs. Our city's economic development team was instrumental in bringing Caterpillar, Glazer's Distribution, Diamond Bear Brewery, Flyway Brewery, Southern Farmers Association, United Way Headquarters, U.S. Foodservice, Alliance Parts Warehouse, UTC Aerospace Systems,

the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, and the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub to North Little Rock.

But it is not just about bringing in new business, it is about retaining

and growing the existing businesses in North Little Rock. Ben E. Keith Foods, Diamond Bear Brewery, Care Link, and Caterpillar's recent expansion have all been critical successes for our



Rusty Mathis, General Manager of Ben E. Keith Foods, Mayor Joe Smith, and Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde in front of the new 430,000 SQ-FT, state-of-the-art, food distribution center. This expansion by one of North Little Rock's most respected corporate citizens means that we will keep nearly 300 jobs – and add additional jobs - right here in North Little Rock.



"Though the work is different in our neighborhoods, and might not get the public attention of downtown projects, the quality of life improvement efforts in all our communities are just as critical to our city's economic development."

*Council Member Maurice Taylor,
Ward 2*

city in keeping businesses right here in Central Arkansas. Retention and expansion are areas where our close working relationship with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Little Rock is a tremendous help.

Is it only for downtown?

Every neighborhood has different economic development needs and requirements. What works downtown might not work in Overbrook or Military Heights.

For example, NLR economic development teams have been working hard on commercial revitalization projects in Park Hill, Levy, Baring Cross and many other neighborhoods. Levy and Park Hill have been selected as federal "JumpStart" neighborhoods and Pike Avenue in Baring Cross will be getting a multi-million dollar facelift to help with walkability and traffic issues, all with an aim to increase attractiveness to new business investment in those neighborhoods.

North Little Rock has been a leader in emphasizing "quality of life" as an integral component of urban economic development. Businesses constantly remark that they need communities that will help them attract the talented and skilled workforce they require. Those workers want to live in cities that invest in themselves and their residents.

In addition to trails, parks, street and drainage projects, we have seen great success in the revitalization of our downtown. "A couple decades ago you could see tumbleweeds blowing across Main Street when the sun went down. The place was empty. Nobody wanted to come downtown," said Dan Scott, North Little Rock's Director of Neighborhood Services. Since then



our economic development team, along with a thriving neighborhood organization, played critical roles in Verizon Arena, the Dickey-Stephens baseball stadium, and other Main Street projects.

Downtown belongs to all of us. Often, downtown is the only part of North Little Rock seen or visited by potential business developers to our city.

Downtown is the front porch for our city and determines the "curb appeal" for our community.


"When a city's downtown is in disrepair, or lacks any type of energy, you can just feel the depression of a city," said Mayor Joe Smith.

Argenta Plaza

Which brings us to the Argenta Plaza, a public investment in our downtown that is responsible for nearly \$40 million in additional, *private* investments for our city and more than 300 new jobs. The \$5.2 million in funds for the Plaza was partly raised through land sales of vacant City owned property, often with the express promise that if a developer invested in our city by buying city property and creating jobs, the City Council would use

the money from that property sale for construction of the Plaza.

It took five years to put together enough funds to pay for the project, and no new tax dollars were used. Since the announcement of the Argenta Plaza project, four different private development projects have been started or completed, including the five-story International Headquarters of First Orion. The Plaza is scheduled to be completed by September of this year.

The Argenta Plaza belongs to every resident of North Little Rock, just like the Old Mill in Lakewood, Burns Park in Levy, Emerald Park off Scenic Hill, or Ott Park near Rose City. The Plaza is already attracting business development that will increase tax revenues to be used for all residents in the form of sanitation services, street and drainage projects, and even parks and recreation programs. Mayor Smith explains it in very simple terms. "Argenta Plaza is the most successful economic development tool I've been a part of in my 25 years with the city." 



"We wake up every morning with the drive to make something happen, bring jobs, help our current businesses, and recruit new ones. Every part of our city benefits when companies choose to do business here, not just the area where they end up locating."

*Todd Larson,
NLR Economic Development Director*

When Ferry Boats Plied the River

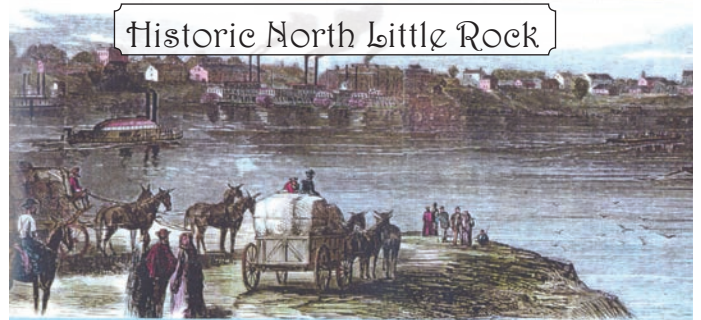
Edmund Hogan established a ferry service and small settlement on the north side of the Arkansas River, opposite the little rock, in 1818, where the road from Missouri crossed. Pulaski County was created that same year and Hogan, a veteran of the War of 1812, became the first justice of the peace. Later in 1862, the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad built a depot near the ferry in what would become Argenta. About a decade after the depot moved, the Junction Bridge opened in 1884. Today Hogan's old ferry site is home for the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum.

In Hogan's day, ferry boats were rather crude, probably little more than two or three rafts strapped together. Early historian William F. Pope described a system of ropes tied to trees on either shore and linked to pulleys attached to buoys that allowed the ferryman to guide the boat while taking advantage of the current to propel it over the water in about 10 minutes. In 1821, Hogan sold the ferry to land speculator

William Russell, who sold it to Robert Crittenden, secretary of the Arkansas Territory in the 1820s.

A second ferry launched by David Rorer in 1832, known as the lower landing, ran between what is now the end of Locust Street in North Little Rock to the wharves at the end of Commerce Street in Little Rock. Crittenden's upper landing ferry, which went broke long after his death in 1834, may have moved upriver near where the Baring Cross Bridge was later built in 1873. Several other ferries operated upriver and downriver on the Arkansas River and were crucial in the nation's westward expansion.

William E. Woodruff, the founder of the Arkansas Gazette, bought Rorer's ferry in 1836. By then horse boats, also called team boats, were plying the river. Horses powered the ferry by walking



on a treadmill. Recognizing Central Arkansas as a gateway for migration to the Southwest, Woodruff replaced the horse boats with a faster and larger steam ferry in 1838. His brother Nathaniel managed the ship and built a blacksmith shop on the north side.

Unable to compete with four bridges built in the last quarter of the 19th Century, ferries dwindled to extinction in Little Rock-North Little Rock. In 1889, the owners of the lower boat sued the Junction Bridge Railway Company, contending the bridge had interfered with their business. The court sided with the bridge company. — Cary Bradburn

New City Council

While the Mayor ensures the day-to-day operations of the city run as smooth as possible, the overall direction and guidance of our city is determined by your elected Council Members. Our city has four wards, each represented by two Council Members. 2019 marks the first term for **Ward 4 Council Member Jane Ginn**, who was elected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of long time Council Member Murry Witcher.

The North Little Rock City Council has a reputation for efficient and effective oversight of our city government. In addition to approving the annual budget, your City Council meets twice every month on the second and fourth Mondays at 6 p.m., to consider agenda items on a wide variety of issues concerning city government. Every Council Member has encouraged their constituents to reach out to them with issues or concerns.



Back row (L to R): Ron Harris (Ward 3), Steve Baxter (Ward 3), Mayor Joe A. Smith, Charlie Hight (Ward 4), Maurice Taylor (Ward 2).

Front Row (L to R): Linda Robinson (Ward 2), Beth White (Ward 1), Debi Ross (Ward 1), Jane Ginn (Ward 4).



Fridge friendly contact information

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor	Joe A. Smith	975-8601	mayor@nlr.ar.gov
City Clerk and Treasurer	Diane Whitbey	975-8617	Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov
City Attorney	Amy Fields	975-3755	nlrlegal@nlr.ar.gov
Judge (Traffic)	Judge Randy Morley	791-8562	judy.west@nlrpolice.org
Judge (Criminal/Civil)	Judge Paula Juels Jones	791-8559	vicki.weed@nlrpolice.org
CITY COUNCIL			
Ward 1 Council Member	Debi Ross	753-0733	dross@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 1 Council Member	Beth White	758-2738	bwhite@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Maurice Taylor	690-6444	mtaylor@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Linda Robinson	945-8820	lrobinson@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 3 Council Member	Steve Baxter	804-0928	sbaxter@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 3 Council Member	Ron Harris	758-2877	ronharris@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Charlie Hight	944-0670	chight@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Jane Ginn	749-5344	jginn@nlr.ar.gov

DEPARTMENTS

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External Affairs	Margaret Powell	975-8605	mpowell@nlr.ar.gov
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Traffic Services	Chris Wilbourn	340-5352	cwilbourn@nlr.ar.gov
Vehicle Maintenance	Kenny Brock	340-5371	kbrock@nlr.ar.gov

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