

north
little
rock

PROUD

Summer 2021, Vol. 04, No. 02.

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office

THE
Garden
of
Eating

INSIDE:
SUMMER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES
COMMUNITY GARDENS

What a great summer we are having! No more masks in city buildings, more and more people are being vaccinated in North Little Rock and no snow for a while. We have many projects happening all over our city and the new Amazon facility is nearing completion. Beautification continues to be a priority throughout our city. We have many fun things to do in North Little Rock. I want to encourage you to join your Neighborhood Association either in person or on social media. I have visited with over half of the neighborhood association presidents since January 4 to listen to their concerns. I share information on a weekly basis with our neighborhood leaders so, join your neighborhood association social media page, the City of North Little Rock website, Facebook and Twitter.

Mayor Terry C. Hartwick



Anna Sawyer, garden supervisor, (left) & Arjo Mitra, garden worker, (right) holding a bountiful harvest of squash and cucumbers from the "Garden of Eating" at Shiloh Baptist Church Community Garden.



Table of Contents

3.....Summer Reading Program	11.....Summer Youth Programs
4.....Volunteers in Our Community	12.....Economic Development
6.....Community Gardens	14.....Ward Updates
8.....Neighborhood Associations	16.....Planning Department Q&A
9.....New Code Director	18.....Department Contacts
10.....Unsheltered Community	19.....Electric Department
10.....Our Schools	20.....Summer in North Little Rock



north
little
rock **PROUD**

Publisher
Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

Editor: Shara Brazear
Graphic Design: Mark Potter
Email: sbrazear@nlr.ar.gov

Summer Reading Program

Summer in North Little Rock is an amazing time of the year. There's so much happening including cookouts, swimming, trips to the lake, baseball, blue skies, fireflies, vacations, and making great memories. It's a very important and much needed break for kids and their families.

However, what kids remember from the end of the school year to the start of the next can be a big question. There's something called the "Summer Slide." Simply defined, it's a decline in reading ability and retention over the break. According to statistics published by the American Education Research Journal in 2019, 52% of children lost 39% of their total school year gains during the summer months.

What's a parent to do in order to prevent the Summer Slide from happening? The best option is to get your kids and teens involved at the Laman Library. We have some fantastic ideas that will help you and your kids balance summer fun and summer learning.

First, get your family involved in the "Tails and Tales Challenge" Summer Reading Program. We have prizes and programs for all ages. Books, DVDs, and audiobooks are all a part of the program, so you can participate the way you like best.

Also, we have tons of online activities that include musicians, puppies, yoga, cooking, Marilyn's Facebook LIVE storytime, Page Turner Adventures, and much much more. Be sure to see our full online calendar on our website at lamanlibrary.org.

Second, listen to the advice of Janet Rodgers in our Main Branch Children's Department: "Read, visit the library, but take your family to museums, also. Kids will have fun, and they'll be able to use what they learned during the school year."

"So much history is available in Central Arkansas for free," according to Janet, who has 25 years experience as



an educator. "The library can add and supplement with books on almost any subject. Take kids on a nature walk. We have field guides and information that will help you identify what you find. We also have STEM guides to help you make fun projects together. Learning doesn't have to always be in the classroom, and it's very important to get your kids outside and explore."

Janet also suggests having your kids do a book/movie combo. Have your kids read a book that has a movie based on it and then watch the movie. Have them share the differences between what they read and what they saw on screen. Plus, Janet has created a fun Activity Challenge just for kids where they can win prizes for participating.

Third, we have FREE items you can pick up at both the Main and Argenta branches of the library. That includes our STEM kits that are available each week and our HUGE Tails and Tales Summer Reading Activity Book. Did you know this? You can check out baking kits, telescopes, binoculars, tool kits, craft kits, fishing poles, knitting looms, puzzles, and more at Laman Library. Let the kids choose what they want to do, and we'll be your resource to make it fun and educational. That's why we say make Laman your first option for summer activities.

Don't forget that Laman Library has the Teen Center that's specifically designed for kids 12 to 18. Teens can enjoy "their" time or time with friends. Colby Sansom, Main Branch Teen Center programmer, says that "it's a safe, supervised environment that teens love. We have books on teen subjects, artistic programs, and high-end gaming computers that are available all the time."

There's lots to do in North Little Rock during the summer. Enjoy the season, and let Laman Library help your family balance learning and fun. We have lots of options to help you keep your kids actively engaged and prevent the Summer Slide. 📖

William F. Laman Public Library System

Main Branch

2801 Orange Street

North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-758-1720



Argenta Branch

420 Main Street

North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-687-1061

Prizes and programs for all ages. Books, DVDs, and audiobooks can all be logged in this library program. All of our summer events are online only.

lamanlibrary.org

Our Community Volunteers

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month and the City of North Little Rock is blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers that give their time to benefit the children, citizens and our community. We are thankful for the many volunteers in our community and took time to highlight a few recently:

Bert Turner

Burn Boss, NLR Parks and Recreation

Police Athletic League (PAL)

Ken Abel, Greg Lindsey, Anita Smith,
Sonya Irving and Gwen Hunter

Randy Naylor

Chairman, Keep NLR Beautiful

Preston Cowan & Bill Trousdale

NLR Parks and Recreation

NLR Parks Commissioners

Laura Juels, Vicki Stephens, Otistene
Smith, Neil Bryant, Don Skrivanos,
Randall Bradley and John Hay.

NLR Neighborhood Association Presidents

Michelle Holt, Paula Lively, Katie
Gleason, Harlan Hunter, Suni
McClelland, Stephen Hart, Belinda
Burney, Dr. Tracey McElwee, Earnest
Franklin, LaQuanda Thompson,
Tim Deloney, Joy Cameron, Stephen
Whiting, Michael Davis, Tammy
Small, Juanita Henderson, Deborah
Rhodes, Doug McDowall, John
Gregar, Michelle Johnson, Ken Abel,
Randy Naylor, Artis Boykin, Marie
Hollowell, and John Santoro

David Barnes

Chaplain, NLR Police Department

Marsha Mosenthin & Phyllis Killeen

Friends of the Animals, NLR Animal
Shelter

Hamilton Boys & Girls Club

Derrick Williams, Reco Bennett,
Deborah Randle, Cortez Washington,
Ty Robinson and Dianne Profit.

If you would like to volunteer in
our city, please contact Angela Wirt,
Volunteer Coordinator, at 501-975-
4297 or awirt@nlr.ar.gov



Police Athletic League (PAL)



Preston Cowan & Bill Trousdale



David Barnes



Randy Naylor



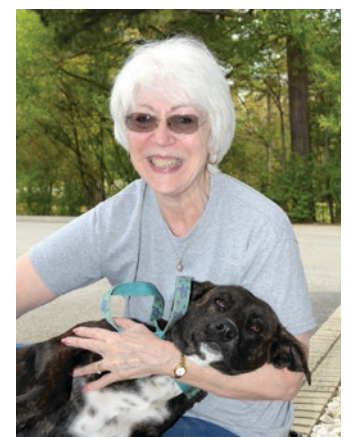
North Little Rock Parks Commissioners



Hamilton Boys & Girls Club staff



Phyllis Killeen



Marsha Mosenthin

Community Gardens

Community gardens are any piece of land gardened by a group of people and can be located at a school, church, or residential area in North Little Rock. Each garden can grow any combination of vegetables, herbs, and flowers and can consist of one community plot or many individual plots. With funding from the City's Fit 2 Live Community Garden Program, the number of community gardens in North Little Rock has increased from one to 20 in just five years. The City of North Little Rock supports community gardens through the Fit 2 Live Community Garden Program, which makes \$40,000 per year available to support the establishment or improvement of community gardens and urban farms, with the goal of increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, physical activity and neighborhood connections. Community groups, faith-based organizations, and schools may request up to \$5,000 for garden construction materials, tools, and certain other expenses. Visit the Fit 2 Live page on the City of North Little Rock's website, www.nlr.ar.gov, to download the application to develop and fund a community garden. The completed form should be email by August 15, 2021 to nlrneighborhoodserv@nlr.ar.gov

Anna Sawyer



Anna Sawyer is the Community Garden Director for the City of North Little Rock. Originally from Maryland, Sawyer moved to Arkansas in the Summer of 2020 shortly after receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Spanish from St. Mary's College of Maryland. She joined FullCircle FarmCorps, an AmeriCorps program based in Central Arkansas aimed to address food insecurity through a farm, teach, and outreach framework. She served as a Covid relief member with the Community Garden Network of North Little Rock, only to find herself as Director of the program a few months later. Sawyer has a passion for environmental and food justice, and building a more sustainable future for our communities. She is diligent about connecting with our garden managers, and supplying them with plants, soil amendments,

irrigation supplies and more to ensure a successful planting season. Sawyer is also the Market Manager for the Argenta Farmers' Market, where she works towards building relationships with all the growers and makers of Central Arkansas. Anna Sawyer wears a lot of hats! If you see her out and about, please don't hesitate to say hello - chances are you will walk away with some produce in the process!

Starr Crow



Starr Crow is a FullCircle FarmCorps member serving with the City of North Little Rock Community Garden Program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Strategic Communications from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and is a native to the Central Arkansas region. Locally, she has worked in the hospitality industry and is currently a supervisor at a renowned Bentonville

event space; internationally, she has worked as a foreign language teacher and tutor in South Korea and Vietnam. Crow has also worked as a consultant on social media and brand building for various clients. She is passionate about community empowerment and sustainable agriculture, and wants to amplify voices and increase access to resources for a more equitable and inclusive city. Crow is responsible for helping to maintain the city's community gardens, as well as photographing and documenting garden improvements for the program's social media channels.

Arjo Mitra



Arjo Mitra is also a FullCircle FarmCorps member serving with the City of North Little Rock Community Garden Program. Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Mitra graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Missouri State



Anna Sawyer (left) teaching the next generation of urban farmers at Pike View Early Childhood Center Garden



Starr Crow (right) showing a young gardener how to transplant kale at the "Garden of Eating" of Shiloh Baptist Church



Reverend Hawkins (right) of Bailey Chapel Baptist Church taking a turn on the tiller, while Starr Crown (left) holds his jacket at the East 2nd Community Garden

University. He moved to North Little Rock in January with only a little gardening experience. During his time in Arkansas, he has expanded

his knowledge of soil amendments, companion planting, and organic approaches to pest management. He is grateful for this opportunity to learn,

while also serving the diverse communities of North Little Rock. In his spare time, Mitra enjoys practicing yoga, tai chi, and poi. 🙏

Neighborhood Associations

Since the last publication, Mayor Hartwick has met with Neighbors United for Levy, Faulkner Crossing Neighborhood Association and Cobblestone Crime Watch.

Neighbors United for Levy

Neighbors United for Levy President Doug McDowall shared, “We cannot solve problems if we do not know about them.” Levy residents are welcome to share their concerns at the monthly meeting, the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the North Heights Community Center at 4801 Allen Street. Neighbors United for Levy has a group on Facebook where they share information.


Faulkner Crossing

Faulkner Crossing neighborhood President LaQuanda Thompson explained problems she and other residents are having with beavers making dams in ditches causing the water to back up into yards. Mayor Hartwick is working to resolve the issue providing a safe solution for the beavers and the neighbors. Lights in the recreational area and cameras in problem locations are other solutions that were discussed.

Cobblestone Crime Watch

Mayor Hartwick met with Cobblestone Crime Watch president Suni McCellan who shared, “We have

very little crime, and we want to keep it that way. In our neighborhood, we have young, old, single, young families, all kinds of cultures and backgrounds. We have a mix, a true American neighborhood.”

Mayor Hartwick will continue meeting with all of the neighborhood associations in North Little Rock and has scheduled meetings with the Cypress Crossing Neighborhood Association, President Stephen Hart and Vice-President Melvin Beasley; the Baring Cross Neighborhood Association, President Harlan Hunter; and the Scenic Hill Neighborhood Association, President Randy Naylor. 

Covid Vaccine Update

The City has been working with several groups as we push toward having more and more of our citizens and visitors who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. The City will continue to help any group that requests assistance and make a point to utilize our social media footprint to get the word out. To date, we have had great success with over 15 events in our community but it appears the numbers of those who are wanting to be vaccinated is slowing. It is important we reach out to our community partners and make sure they notify us of any upcoming events. If you are able to obtain any information or flyers about upcoming events please contact Margaret Powell at mpowell@nlr.ar.gov in the Pandemic Office. In our conversations with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and others, it appears most vaccines will be delivered through pharmacies and doctors’ offices with fewer COVID clinics until school starts back in the Fall. An estimated 50% of the population in Pulaski County has received one dose of the vaccine with 36% being fully vaccinated. 




“I want all my friends to get vaccinated” said Chloe Pettus of North Little Rock, the first 12 year-old who bravely received her first Pfizer vaccination at the Simmons Bank Arena Community Vaccination Clinic on May 26, 2021. Chloe is a sixth-grader at Lakewood Middle School and joined her mother, grandmother and older brothers who had already received their Covid-19 vaccinations. Chloe’s little brother is only 10 and will have to wait until the vaccine is approved for his age group, according to his Mother Tarsika Perry. Three successful Community Vaccination Clinics were conducted by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in partnership with the City of North Little Rock, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the City of Sherwood, Pulaski County, and Simmons Bank Arena.

FOCUS in Rose City

The FOCUS in Rose City began by mailing letters to every household in Rose City to notify residents the City would be focusing on the following: public nuisance violations, illegal outside storage in yards/porches/carports, unlicensed/inoperable vehicles, animal control violations, trash in yards, stored building material or unlicensed businesses. All houses were notified they are required to have house numbers at least 3" tall on the



house visible from the street. Residents were asked to report street lights that were out, code enforcement violations, and also contact Sanitation for debris pickup. Citizens reported 26 violations. City departments:


1. **CODE** issued 206 violation notices, 8 letters for tall grass, 19 vehicles were tagged, 1 vehicle was towed and 12 structures were inspected as well as 5 rentals;
2. **STREET** cleaned ditches and drainage as well as checked the roadways for potholes;
3. **SANITATION** ran extra vehicles for the pickup of debris and old tires;
4. **TRAFFIC** checked road markings and crosswalks as well as replaced damaged signs; and
5. **FIRE** visited 101 houses and installed 10 smoke detectors. 

Mayor Names Director of Code Enforcement

Felicia McHenry has been named Director of Code Enforcement in the City of North Little Rock by Mayor Terry Hartwick. McHenry has worked for North Little Rock in the Code Enforcement Department for 23 years. A longtime resident of North Little Rock, McHenry has been married for 29 years and has five children and ten grandchildren. McHenry obtained a Housing Code Certification through the Standard Building Code Council International and also holds a license as a Plumbing Inspector by the State of Arkansas. In addition, McHenry has obtained additional certifications through the International Code Council for Housing and Property Maintenance




Codes. McHenry has taken on the ultimate leadership role within the Code Department and realizes the importance of listening to your

employees, treating everyone fairly, bringing out the best in both employees and customers while still making the hard decisions when necessary. "An open line of communication with other city departments is key, we are all an important piece of the puzzle called the City of North Little Rock, working together to serve our citizens. My passion has always been to provide exceptional service to our community and to treat everyone with respect and dignity," shared McHenry. "Felicia has worked hard in our city as a Code Supervisor and also as the Interim Director since January of this year. I am confident Felicia is the most qualified and experienced person for the job," said Mayor Hartwick. 

Mayor Names Liaison to the Unsheltered Community

North Little Rock Police Officer Jhailan Rathey was recently named as the Liaison to the Unsheltered Community for the City of North Little Rock by Mayor Terry Hartwick. “Jhailan has a passion for working with our unsheltered community and I believe he will do a wonderful job coordinating and utilizing individuals and resources in our community,” shared Mayor Hartwick. Chief Patrick Thessing of the North Little Rock Police Department shared, “Over the years we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of unsheltered individuals and families in the City of North Little Rock. Due to this increase, we wanted to find a way to help build relationships and provide assistance to those who are unsheltered who call North Little Rock their home.”

Rathey, a lifetime North Little Rock resident, has worked as both a Crisis Negotiator and Field Training Officer. During his five years of service, Officer Rathey has received two Life-Saving Awards and has been named Officer of the Month. Officer Rathey will engage the unsheltered community to help facilitate access to resources they may need, as well as build relationships with our local business leaders and other available resources. Always interacting with caution, Officer Rathey will also communicate and secure assistance for individuals with specific, unique needs. If you would like to be included as a resource, please email Officer Rathey, jhailan.rathey@nlrpolicy.org, or contact him at (501) 975-8780. 



A Word From Our Schools

The 2020-2021 school year is now in our rearview mirror. While it was a year like no other, we finished strong. I want to thank all of our staff, students, parents, and community for a successful school year. It truly took a teamwork approach to finish the year in the way in which we did.

Each of our schools, with the exception of Pike View Early Childhood Center, hosted the Summer Learning Loss Program. Our teachers and administrators have identified some students who needed additional support for success in the 2021-2022 school year. Our teachers and staff were excited to work with these students.

The first day of school is Monday, August 16, 2021! As that day inches closer, our teachers and staff will be spending time in some high-level, student-focused professional development sessions. These sessions are meant to challenge and inspire our employees, which, in turn, we hope they will challenge and inspire our students.

The North Little Rock School District is blessed to be situated in such a supportive community. If you have not already, I ask that you join a local PTA and

be a part of our schools. We have a PTA at every school. They are made up of supportive parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members who rally behind our schools. Each chapter will be glad to have you as we work to move our district forward. Many of our PTA members serve as volunteers in our schools. If you are interested in joining, please contact Crystal Barker, our Parent Engagement/VIPS Coordinator, by email at barkercc@nlrsd.org.

Thank you for being a part of the North Little Rock School District. And remember, you just can't hide that Charging Wildcat pride!

In service,
Gregory J. Pilewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Gregory Pilewski

SUMMER 2021 SAPling



NLR Parks & Recreation Summer Programs

- North Little Rock Parks and Recreation wants to help your child grow to become a strong independent adult. Like a sapling and a tree, youth require encouragement, nourishment and skills to grow into a strong well rooted adult.
- Our goal is to offer the youth of North Little Rock and surrounding communities this chance by providing the necessary encouragement, skills and nourishment during the summer months through the Summer Activity Program (SAPling). Children have the opportunity to grow physically and emotionally.
- Boys and girls going into the 1st thru 8th grades in the fall of 2021 participated daily in fun and safe recreational activities such as sports, nutrition, STEM and creative arts.
- Four sessions were offered between June 7 and August 6.

SPORTS
&
FITNESS

CREATIVE
ARTS

STEM

HEALTH
&
NUTRITION

Register today for Mini-Skills Camp (see below)

Contact NLR Program Unit to schedule a registration appointment
at 501-791-8545 or email: programming@nlrpr.org



MINI-SKILLS CAMP AUGUST 9—13TH

Cost: \$25.00 (Must register and pay by the Friday
BEFORE camp begins)

Each center will host a 1-week mini skills camp.
Each camp will concentrate on more specific skills
and techniques. Must bring own lunch.

Sports Mini Camp (GVCC)
Ninja Warrior Camp (NHCC)
Creative Arts Camp (SPCC)
Teen Camp (RCCC)



"Today's Growing
Youth,
Tomorrow's
Well Rooted Adult"

Funland Amusement Park

SPEND A DAY, NOT A FORTUNE! Open now until October 21, 2021



Schedule:

Friday - Appointment Only (groups,
schools, daycares, summer camps, etc.)
Saturdays 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sundays 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Prices:

One Ticket: \$2.00
Unlimited Ride Pass (valid for one
day): \$12.00
Season Pass (individual): \$40
Season Pass (family of four): \$100

Special Event Admission (Easter Egg
Hunt, Fall Fest, Holiday Express, etc.):
\$5 per person

Each ride will take one ticket

Pavilion Rental:

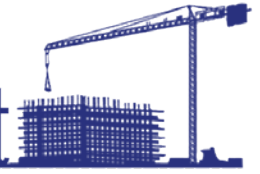
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm \$60
Saturday 3 pm - 7 pm \$60
Saturday All Day (10 am - 7 pm) \$85
Sunday 1 pm - 6 pm \$60

Please contact Funland to reserve a
pavilion at 501-753-7307 or email us
at funland@nlrpr.org





Economic Development



EDUCATION, an integral component to Economic Development

Recently the **North Little Rock School District** Superintendent, Dr. Greg Pilewski met Dr. Jerome Green, President of **Shorter College** and Dr. Margaret Ellibee of the **University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College** to discuss the future of education in North Little Rock: 1) How can we work better together? 2) How can we make sure there is a pathway for all students to attend college? 3) How can we develop a strong workforce to supply our thriving business community? Robert Birch, Director of Development for the City of North Little Rock joined to share insight for the workforce needs.

At North Little Rock High School and the Center Of Excellence, the first year of the Academies of Central Arkansas kicked off. The academies are based on the Ford Next Generation Learning (Ford NGL) platform that breaks the high school into career academies. Ford NGL mobilizes educators, local employers and community leaders to transform teaching and learning in high schools by creating and maintaining career- themed academies. This transformative process prepares students who will graduate from high school ready for college, careers, life-long learning and leadership. To learn more about this program you can go to www.academiesofcentralarkansas.org. The district is not just focused on the high school, "We have to focus starting in kindergarten, if we don't get off to the right start there, we are setting

up for failure," said Dr. Pilewski. The district is refocusing making sure students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are prepared with all the tools they need to succeed going into middle school. The District announced a Summer Learning Loss Program to prepare students to recover lost learning, reinforce skills or engage in new learning and enrichment in order to better prepare for the 2021-22 school year. Shorter College is fostering a new program to create entrepreneurs by developing an inner-city innovation hub oriented for potential students who are wanting to reenter the work- force for various reasons. The funds for this program are being provided for by the Education Stabilization Fund- Reimaging Workforce Preparations Grant created by the federal government to help states leverage entrepreneurship to create educational opportunities. These pathways will hopefully help citizens return to work, small businesses recover and new entrepreneurs thrive.

The United States Economic Development Administration has awarded a \$2.5 million grant to the University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College (UA-PTC) to launch the first phase of its STEM Park Project on the main campus in North Little Rock. UA-PTC will provide \$653,230 in matching funds to remodel the existing science building, labs, and classrooms. UA-PTC's Business and Industry Center continues to customize training for local companies. The mission of the UA-PTC Business and Industry Center is to provide a high-quality workforce development program in response to the needs of central Arkansas business and industry. By working together,

North Little Rock is providing more opportunities a pathway for any student wanting to further their education or prepare themselves to enter the workforce.. "We are listening to businesses and what their workforce needs are. We are committed to working with our local two year colleges and school districts to provide the skills needed to keep North Little Rock's business community thriving." Robert Birch, Director of Development City of North Little Rock.

The North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce will feature Dr. Pilewski, Dr. Green, Dr. Ellibee and Mr. Birch on Friday, August 6 at the North Little Rock Chamber's FYI Luncheon in a round table discussion as well as question and answer period at the end.

Hiring in 2021...How to Choose Wisely

To say that 2020 changed the workforce forever is an understatement. In some ways, the world has hit reset on how hiring is done. In July, hiring in central Arkansas will offer many choices for residents. Gone are the days of just looking at the salary a position pays. With the number of jobs coming available, consider the following when selecting a position that is the right fit for you and your family.

First, write down your goals of what you want your job to provide? An overloaded work schedule can put tremendous stress on a family. Sometimes the benefits of the extra pay, does not align with your goals as a family. Providing for your family is, of course at the top of everyone's list, just consider the cost of time away from them when looking for that

next opportunity. Second, examine everything a company offers. Are they stable? What is their track record for layoffs? Why are they hiring? These are some questions to consider. Below are things to consider when looking for a potential employer:

Company History: Research the prospective company on their website, social media, and most importantly, Google. This will also help you in the interview process.

Company Values: It is easier to work with a company that reflects similar values to your own. Look at the mission statement of the company and compare it to your values and direction.

Job Location and Work Hours:

When looking at a particular job, it is important to think of both your work hours and your commute time (and cost). How will that affect your family and stress level. Will it cost you to miss important family events?

Salary: In the past, and for some maybe now, this has been the first priority for those seeking employment. What does the job pay? Salary should be an important aspect of any position but one should also consider, what does it cost.

Benefits: Companies that offer an attractive benefits package can actually make a lower salary better for your needs than a hiring paying position with limited or no benefits. With healthcare costs continuing to be a burden on families, benefits offered should be a high priority. Retirement savings plans are key as well. You may not think you can afford one, but many companies offer retirement plan options that you should thoroughly investigate. Also look at vacation, sick and personal days offered. Do

they provide childcare or childcare assistance?

Opportunities for Growth: Are there opportunities to move ahead with the company? Does the company provide on-going training or even tuition assistance? Look for a job that teaches skills that can transfer to other opportunities down the road.

Work Life Balance: The health and well-being of you and your family is impacted by the balance between work and life. Demanding jobs can offer personal satisfaction, but can also lead to neglecting other areas of your life. Consider the demands a potential position will have on you.

American Rescue Plan: Child Tax Credit Expansion

Starting in July 2021 many Arkansas families will start receiving monthly deposits from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) called Advance Child Tax Credit Payments. The first payment is **slated for July 15**. After that, taxpayers can expect the payments in their bank accounts each month: **July 15, August 13, September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 15**. The payments will be made either by direct deposit or by paper check, depending on what information the IRS has on file for each recipient. Eligible families will receive a lump sum for the first six months of 2021 when they file their returns in 2022.

Maximum Benefit per child for qualifying families

- \$3,600 per child under the age of 6; \$300 monthly
- \$3,000.00 for children ages 6 to 17; \$250 monthly


Who qualifies for the payments?

An estimated 88% of families with children will qualify for the expanded credits, according to the IRS. Taxpayers who qualify for the newly expanded child tax credit will receive a letter in the mail from the IRS in the following days informing them of their eligibility. Families can expect a second letter from the IRS estimating their monthly payment in the coming weeks.

Filers must have had a 2019 or 2020 adjusted gross income below the following levels to qualify for the full monthly payment:

- \$75,000 for individual taxpayers
- \$112,500 for heads of household
- \$150,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly, and widows/widowers

The tax credit is refundable, so all who qualify will receive a payment even if they don't have any earned income or typically earn too little to owe taxes. The agency says most eligible families do not have to do anything to receive the payments, which will be based on 2020 income. If they haven't filed their taxes yet, though, they should do so ASAP. This gives the IRS each person's most current banking information and information on their dependents.

Taking advance payments will not delay any refunds due next year on 2021 taxes. Child Tax Credits will not be listed as income on your 2021 tax return. Advance Tax Credit Payments cannot be counted as income when determining eligibility for other benefits or assistance. Even if you have no income you can receive advance Child Tax Credit payments if you are eligible. Visit the Internal Revenue Service website, www.irs.gov, for more information. 

NLRPROUD

Ward Updates

Safer Homes. Better Streets. Prouder City!

Ward 1

- The heat of summer has arrived! In order to mitigate the miserable conditions of the afternoons our **sanitation** workers are starting early in the morning when it is a bit more bearable. Make sure you put your cans out the night before, so you do not get left with two weeks' worth of garbage.
- The evergreen issues for our Ward are mostly the same as they are all over the city: **speeding, drainage, and littering**. These are issues that will never be solved or cured, but we are trying some new things to make sure we are battling the problems smarter and more efficiently. The Mayor has created **Unit 50**, a dedicated crew to pick up trash around our city and we are already seeing improvement. The 2017 sales tax provides a significant resource to battle the ever changing drainage issues, and our traffic and police departments are implementing new strategies to try and ramp down speeding in our neighborhoods.
- What do you think needs to be the focus of your council members? We do a better job representing you if you share your concerns. Debi Ross, dross@nlr.ar.gov and Nathan Hamilton, nhamilton@nlr.ar.gov

Ward 2

- We continue to work towards street and drainage improvements: 1) There is now a **streetscape** with drainage improvements that runs from Hickory and Bishop Lindsey in the Sherman Park community to 7th and Willow Streets in the Argenta Community. The project is almost completed. 2) The drainage problems on Palm and East Broadway have been repaired. **Drainage and street improvements** on Park Place Street are on schedule to be repaired. Street improvements on 9th street in the Dixie Addition have also been completed. 3) **Sink holes** are constantly being repaired all over Ward 2. Sinkholes in Faulkner Crossing and Stone Links Communities have been repaired. Storm water drainage replacement in multiple areas in the Stone Links Community are being repaired. Sidewalks in Cypress Crossing are now in compliance with the ADA guidelines.
- Residents who live in the Northshore community requested a **walking trail** for their park. An application for a grant to fund the project was submitted. If the funding is approved, Ward 2 will have five (5) walking trails. Trails are currently in Glenview, Dixie, Sherman Park and Baring Cross.
- Ward 2 residents have complained about possible code **violations**, people driving too fast, neighbors parking on the grass, dogs roaming neighborhoods, loud music, etc. We take each complaint seriously and ALL complaints have been forwarded to the appropriate department.
- We gladly assisted numerous 70 year olds and other Ward 2 residents who did not have access to the internet to schedule their appointments online during the first phase of COVID-19 vaccination.
- We have assisted the **North Little Rock History Commission** in getting volunteers from Ward 2 to be interviewed about the history of their neighborhood. These oral histories will be placed on file for others to see for years to come.
- Share your thoughts and concerns: Linda Robinson, lrobinson@nlr.ar.gov and Maurice Taylor, mtaylor@nlr.ar.gov.

Ward 3

- **Littering and Beautification** are top priorities in the Scenic Hill and Amboy neighborhoods. A group has been formed that is interested in preventing littering. Some suggestions so far include: placing trash barrels in highly pedestrian trafficked areas, creation of new “No Littering Signs” posting fines, and reviving the Adopt-A-Street project throughout Ward 3.
- **Streets:** 1) **Speeding** will be more closely monitored. 2) **Repairing damages** to streets: patching holes, resurfacing, and drainage issues. 3) Working on a study with the North Little Rock City Engineer, Chris Wilbourn to **modify the city’s master street plan** in Maumelle and to take advantage of the new Interstate 40/White Oak Crossing interchange and the improvements to Crystal Hill/Maumelle Boulevard. North Little Rock has growth potential on both sides of Highway 100 from Counts Massie Road to Interstate 430.
- Encouraging our residents who have personal home cameras to register with the police department database in case there is a **crime** committed in our neighborhoods that needs some video evidence. We are also educating our residents about what types of **emergency responses** we need to be aware of in case of a wide variety of emergencies such as railroad or truck chemical spills, or other unexpected emergency events is planned for 2021.
- Share your thoughts and concerns: Steve Baxter, sbaxter@nlr.ar.gov and Ron Harris, rharris@nlr.ar.gov

Ward 4

- **Speeding** is a frequent matter of concern on residential streets. Speeding will be more closely monitored.
- Bidding is underway for street repairs on both **Randolph Road and Osage Drive** this summer.
- Ticketing **violations** by the Code Department is predominantly cars parked in front yards.
- **Beautifying the medians** on McCain Boulevard is planned during 2021. Curbs will also be enhanced to mirror the curbs on McCain Boulevard and Fairway Avenue.
- Planning for **Pickle Ball courts in Burns Park** has been requested with plans to host tournaments.
- **Repairing of potholes** is an ongoing issue. The Street Department has been responsive to filling the potholes in a timely manner. Streets needing overlay is a longer process because once a street is officially requested for overlay, the street is put on a waiting list.
- Working to secure funds to **repair Batesville Pike** during 2022.
- Share your thoughts and concerns: Jane Ginn, jginn@nlr.ar.gov and Charlie Hight, chight@nlr.ar.gov



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The North Little Rock Planning Department recently developed a flyer for residential contractors and homeowners. The flyer, shown on the next two pages, contains information on Permits, Inspections, and Fees as well as the steps to gain approval for a project and contact numbers.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2021 Residential Construction Permits, Inspections and Fees.

A reference for residential contractors and owners.

Permits

What work requires a permit at my house or rental property?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| ◇ New construction | ◇ Roofs | ◇ Pools | ◇ Plumbing | ◇ Decks |
| ◇ Retaining walls | ◇ Remodels | ◇ Electrical | ◇ Fences | ◇ Solar Panels |
| ◇ Additions | ◇ Repairs | ◇ Accessory buildings | ◇ HVAC | ◇ Demolition |

Who can apply for a permit? The property owner or a licensed contractor.

- ◇ A **property owner** is defined as the person or entity to whom property tax is assessed, as shown on the latest assessment roll of Pulaski County.
- ◇ A **contractor** must have a current bond with the City of NLR, a business license, and a state license. Only a licensed plumber can apply for a plumbing permit, only a licensed electrician can apply for an electrical permit and only a licensed mechanical contractor can apply for a HVAC permit.

What I need to apply for a permit to build a house? Before applying for a building permit, contact City Engineer's office at 501-371-8339 for driveway and storm water permits.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◇ Site plan & building elevations | ◇ Driveway / curb cut permit |
| ◇ Permit fee | ◇ Storm water permit |

How long will it take for the Planning Department to issue the permit? Once all of the required information has been submitted correctly to planning, permits are issued in one business day.

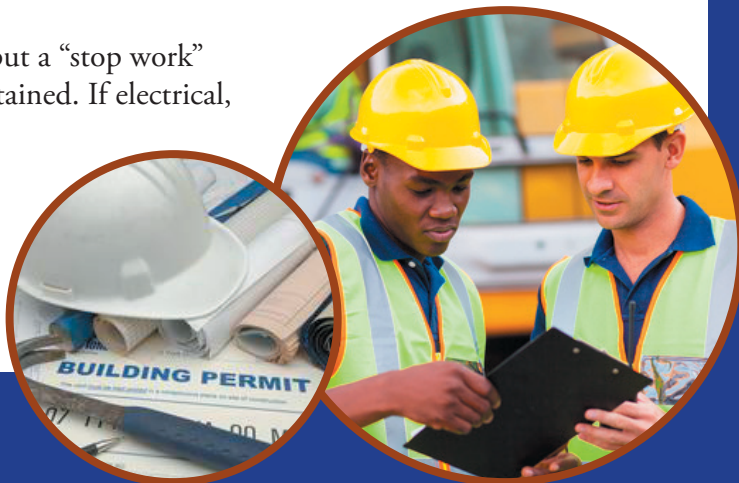
Is there a cost for a building permit? There is a **minimum building permit fee of \$30**. Most building permit fees are based on the value of the work. You can call the permit desk at (501) 975-8835 in advance of applying, communicate the estimated value of the project or the square footage to determine the cost.

How long is my permit valid?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◇ New construction: valid for one (1) year, you must begin within 180 days of issuance. | ◇ Repair/remodel: valid for 180 days | ◇ Permit is invalid with six (6) months of inactivity. All permits begin the date of issuance. |
| | ◇ Fire Rehab: valid for 90 days | |
| | ◇ Demo: valid for 30 days | |

What happens if I work without a permit?

If work is being done **without a permit**, an inspector will put a "stop work" order on the property until the appropriate permits are obtained. If electrical, plumbing, and/or HVAC work that requires an inspection has been covered by drywall or is otherwise inaccessible, it will have to be made accessible for inspection. The permit fee would then be three times the normal fee associated for the work. If work continues without a permit, a citation with a court date will be issued.



LEARN MORE AT NLR.AR.GOV



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Approval

- ◇ A **site plan** is required for new construction, additions, accessory buildings, fences, retaining walls, solar panels, pools, and decks. The site plan must show the project is in compliance with the City's Zoning Ordinance with regards to size and location.
- ◇ Other information you will need to communicate to the permit desk includes the **value of the work**, description of the work, and address of the property.
- ◇ If you are pulling a permit as the homeowner and if **Pulaski County shows a different individual as the owner**, or if the owner is listed as a corporation or a trust, then you must provide proof you own the property.
- ◇ If the project is located in the **Argenta Historic District**, before applying for a permit from the Planning Department, you must obtain a **Certificate of Appropriateness** from the North Little Rock Historic District Commission. Phone number: (501) 371-0755
- ◇ Contact NLR Planning staff at (501) 975-8835 for questions regarding rules in the **Zoning Ordinance**.



Inspections

When do I need an inspection? New construction, additions, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC work.

Workmanship standards: The **permit holder** shall perform all work in a professional manner and the work shall be performed in accordance with any applicable construction codes and professional industry standards.

How do I schedule an inspection? Contact the permit desk at (501) 975-8835. Contractors may also use the online system found at www.bsaonline.com. Contact the permit desk for information on how to register for the online system. When you schedule an inspection, it will be for the next business day.

What happens if I fail an inspection? 1.) Contact the Permit Desk at (501) 975-8835 to have the **inspection report emailed to you** or to speak with the inspector for information on why the work did not pass; and 2) Schedule and pay for a re-inspection once the work is corrected.

Which codes apply in North Little Rock?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ◇ 2012 AR Fire Prevention Code | ◇ 2010 AR State Mechanical Code |
| ◇ 2017 National Electrical Code | ◇ 2010 American Disability Act |
| ◇ 2006 AR State Plumbing Code | ◇ American National Standards Institute - 117 Standard |
| ◇ 2006 AR State Fuel Gas Code | ◇ NLR Municipal Code – Chapter 4 |



Fees

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| ◇ Minimum permit fee: \$30 | ◇ Accessory structures, remodels, decks: Value of project multiplied by \$.006; a minimum of \$30. | ◇ Additions to existing structure, causing an increase of area under roof - \$.20/SF under roof, minimum \$75. |
| ◇ Inspection: \$25 | | |
| ◇ Consultation: \$40 | | |
| ◇ Re-inspection: \$40 | ◇ New Construction: \$.20 per square foot under roof; a minimum of \$250. | |
| ◇ Swimming pools: \$50 | | |
| ◇ Fence: \$30 | | |

Contacts

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ Planning Department (front desk)975-8835 | ◇ Electric Department (customer service)975-8888 |
| ◇ Curb cuts and storm water371-8345 option 5 | ◇ Waste Water945-7186 |
| ◇ City Engineer371-8345 option 5 | ◇ Argenta Historic District371-0755 |
| ◇ Fire Marshall812-5940 | ◇ Business License (City Clerk)975-8617 |
| ◇ Planning FAX975-8837 | ◇ Central Arkansas Water372-5161 |

North Little Rock Contact Information

Mayor	Terry C. Hartwick	975-8601	mayor@nlr.ar.gov
City Clerk/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	Kathy.Davis@NLRPolice.org
Judge (Criminal/Civil)	Judge Paula Juels Jones	791-8559	Vicki.Weed@NLRPolice.org
Chief of Staff	Tracy Roulston	975-8601	troulston@nlr.ar.gov
City Council			
Ward 1 Council Member	Nathan Hamilton	952-7679	nhamilton@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 1 Council Member	Debi Ross	753-0733	dross@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Linda Robinson	945-8820	lrobinson@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 2 Council Member	Maurice Taylor	690-6444	mtaylor@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	Jane Ginn	749-5344	jginn@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Charlie Hight	944-0670	chight@nlr.ar.gov
Departments			
Airport	Clay Rogers	835-5654	crogers@nlr.ar.gov
Animal Control	David Miles	791-8577	dmiles@nlr.ar.gov
Code Enforcement	Felecia McHenry	791-8581	codedirector@nlr.ar.gov
Commerce	Mary Beth Bowman	975-8880	mbowman@nlr.ar.gov
Communications	Shara Brazear	975-8833	sbrazear@nlr.ar.gov
Community Development	Donna Bryant	340-5342	dbryant@nlr.ar.gov
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Karen Trevino	758-1424	ktrevino@northlittlerock.org
Development	Robert Birch	516-0839	rbirch@nlr.ar.gov
Electric	Scott Springer	975-8888	custserv@nlr.ar.gov
Emergency Services	Leonard Montgomery	340-5365	leonard.montgomery@nlrpolice.org
Engineering	Chris Wilbourn	371-8339	cwilbourn@nlr.ar.gov
External Affairs & Pandemic Office	Margaret Powell	975-8605	mpowell@nlr.ar.gov
Finance	Ember Strange	975-8802	nlrfinance@nlr.ar.gov
Fire	Gerald Tucker	340-5377	gtucker@nlr.ar.gov
Health	Lucille Rose	791-8551	lucille.rose@arkansas.gov
History Commission	Sandra Taylor-Smith	371-0755	nlrhstory@comcast.net
Human Resources	Betty Anderson	975-8850	banderson@nlr.ar.gov
Laman Library	Crystal Gates	758-1720	crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org
Neighborhood Services & Community Gardens	Dan Scott	791-8500	nlrneighborhoodserv@nlr.ar.gov
Parks & Recreation	Steve Shields	791-8538	parksandrec@nlr.ar.gov
Planning	Shawn Spencer	975-8835	sspencer@nlr.ar.gov
Police	Patrick Thessing	771-7101	nlrpd@nlrpolice.org
Recycling	George Wheatley	580-1608	wmcares@wm.com
Safety/Traffic Services	Kenny Stephens	371-8345	kastephens@nlr.ar.gov
Sanitation	Condo Breedlove	371-8340	nlrsanitation@nlr.ar.gov
Special Projects	Arnessa Bennett	975-3737	abennett@nlr.ar.gov
Senior Citizens Center	Steve Carr	975-4297	scarr@nlr.ar.gov
Street	Patrick Lane	340-5356	plane@nlr.ar.gov
Unsheltered Community	Officer Jhailan Rathey	975-8780	jrathey@nlr.ar.gov
Vehicle Maintenance	Kenny Brock	340-5371	kbrock@nlr.ar.gov
Workforce Development	Todd Larson	975-8614	tlarson@nlr.ar.gov
Wastewater	Michael Clayton	945-7186	mclayton@nlrwu.com



Electric Department Improves Customer Experience

COVID-19 made the last year difficult, however NLR Electric has continued to move forward improving efficiency and creating a better customer experience. In the past year, NLR Electric has made some updates to our software and to our business processes. We would like to share those with you:

New Mobile App and Payment Portal

North Little Rock Electric Department's My Account has several features that make managing your account easy:

- Free Mobile App (Android or iOS)
- No fees to pay your bill online.
- Provides 24-hour access to account.
- Sends an e-mail notification when a new electric bill is generated.
- Allows you to pay electronically using Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card or an electronic check transaction.
- Displays posting of payments in real time.
- Provides current and historical billing information and payment history.
- Outlines energy usage.
- Allows you to enroll in Paperless Billing.



Goodbye Postcard Bills

In August of 2020, North Little Rock Electric switched from a simple postcard bill to a more detailed, full page (front/back) bill. This new bill contains important messages, Usage Charts, Billing Summary, Breakdown of Charges, and so much more.



MoneyGram

NLR Electric partnered with MoneyGram to increase the number of locations and hours of operation available for you to pay your electric bill. Customers can now pay at locations such as Walmart and Kroger and have their payments posted immediately.




Pay As You Go!!

The North Little Rock Electric Prepaid Program offers residential (and some commercial customers) the ability to have greater control of their account. The Prepaid payment option allows a customer to pay in advance and as often as convenient. There are no due dates, penalties for paying late, reconnect charges or security deposits.



You control the POWER!!

Looking toward the Future

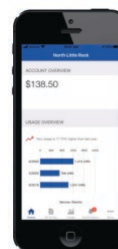
With all of these accomplishments, we are starting to see changes in how we do business and how customers prefer to do business with North Little Rock Electric. Therefore, the North Little Rock Electric Customer Service lobby did not open with the rest of the city buildings. We are still available by phone, online (nlrelectric.com) and in the drive-thru. 

Why leave Home?

NO MORE ONLINE PAYMENT FEES!!



Pay with our mobile app or at nlrelectric.com



Summer in North Little Rock

Now that attractions and venues are starting to open up, it is a perfect time to explore North Little Rock!

- **Submarine Tours** at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum
- North Little Rock **Heritage Center**
- **Concerts** at Simmons Bank Arena
- Arkansas Travelers **Baseball**
- **Argenta Community Theater**
- **Farmer's markets** and farm stands are in full swing
- Flowers are blooming at the historic **Old Mill**
- Music & Arts Festival at **North Shore Riverwalk Park**
- Fare-free **Trolleys** are rolling
- **Burns Park**: So much fun!
- **Argenta Plaza**, North Little Rock's newest community space located downtown on Main Street, has live music and events, but is also a nice place to relax during the day. Arkansas Plaza Summer Music Schedule
- **Laman Library**
- **Funland** Amusement Park
- Walk the **Big Dam Bridge**
- Visit the **Hays Senior Center**
- Spend time on the **RiverWalk**
- Join a **Community Garden**
- New **murals** are still popping up in downtown and throughout the city, so keep a lookout!
- Visit your favorite **restaurants** this summer and maybe even try something new.

For more information, visit
www.northlittlerock.org

THIRD SATURDAYS

ARGENTA PLAZA
SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

5 PM - 8 PM



FREE | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WWW.NORTHLITTLEROCK.ORG/ARGENTAPLAZA
510 MAIN STREET, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114



DON'T MISS:

Saturday, August 21

Opening Act: Ten Penny Gypsy (Trio), 5 - 6 p.m.

Headliner: The Gravel Yard, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Attendees are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs and are encouraged to bring food and drinks from Argenta restaurants. Ample free parking is available throughout downtown North Little Rock. 