

north
little
rock

PROUD

Fall 2021, Vol. 04, No. 03

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office



INSIDE:
BICYCLE PUMP TRACK
AMAZON OPENING

As we enter the holiday season, I encourage you to enjoy the nice weather in North Little Rock with your family and friends. There is so much to see and do in our City this fall. New construction, beautification projects and opportunities to become engaged are evident in all parts of town. The new Amazon facility is open and the North Little Rock Justice Center will host an Open House for our community in early December. We have a great team of employees in our city and as I promised during my campaign, "We are working hard for you". I love hearing from everyone and all of the new ideas you guys have shared with me this year to improve our City. I hope all of you have a blessed holiday season. Be sure to join us on November 9th at 6:00 pm as we light the City Christmas tree in Argenta Plaza and again on Saturday, November 20th for the Northern Lights and Holiday Market at the Plaza.

Mayor Terry C. Hartwick



Amazon's North Little Rock facility has 1,078,342 square feet.



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north little rock **PROUD**

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Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

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ADOPT, Not Shop!



The North Little Rock Animal Shelter is open Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm and Saturdays, 12:00–4:00 pm. The office is closed for lunch between 12:00–12:30 pm daily. Adoption hours: Monday–Friday, 12:30–5:00 pm. For more information on adopting a pet, contact the North Little Rock Animal Shelter at 501-791-8577.

The North Little Rock Animal Shelter provides many services to North Little Rock residents. Adoption of pets is the most popular. Adoption of pets during the Pandemic drastically increased across the country and also in North Little Rock. The North Little Rock Animal Shelter was one of only a few shelters in Central Arkansas to remain open during the Pandemic and provided adoptions for 312 dogs and 235 cats. By the end of August, our animal shelter had already placed 341 dogs and 157 cats in homes for adoption. The cost to adopt from the North Little Rock Animal Shelter is \$60 for dogs and \$40 for cats. David Miles, Director of the North Little Rock Animal Shelter shared, “Remember: **ADOPT, NOT SHOP!**”



Kimberly and Dan Cortez are pictured with their four daughters. The Cortez family recently adopted a cat and a dog at the North Little Rock Animal Shelter.

North Little Rock Airport



The North Little Rock Airport is home to a dozen aviation related businesses and over 140 aircraft, including recreational planes, home-built planes, helicopters, corporate jets, and fully restored antique war birds and show planes. North Little Rock is one of the largest General Aviation airports in the state, both in terms of based aircraft and take offs and landings. Located on the north side of the city, adjacent to Camp Robinson, the airport was given to the city of North Little Rock by the United States Army in 1946, specifically to be used as a municipal airport. In addition to being the home base for aircraft in North Little Rock, the airport also serves as the “front door” to the city for those flying in for the first time. This includes businesses looking for a new location or potential partnerships, concert goers seeing a show at Simmons Bank Arena, youth sports tournaments in Burns Park, or many other reasons to take advantage of the city’s economic and recreational opportunities.

As a part of enhancing the “front door” experience for those flying into North Little Rock, the city and airport


commission, with partial funding from grants from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics, has recently began construction on a new terminal building, flight planning center, FBO, and corporate hangar project. This project will vastly improve the first impression of the airport, and therefore the City of North Little Rock, for hundreds of passengers a year. The 5,700 square foot building and 15,000 square foot hangar will keep the airport in competition for business with nearby airports such as Little Rock, Conway, and Saline County.

A recent economic impact study conducted by the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics calculated the total economic output of the North Little Rock Airport as \$15,632,000, supporting 152 jobs with a payroll of \$6,156,000. Beyond quantifiable dollar amounts, citizens should be proud of their airport, and how it serves as a vital business link and supports quality of life. As an old aviation adage says: a mile of paved road can take you a mile, but a mile of runway can take you anywhere in the world.

Bulldog Formation Flight Team

Bulldog Formation Flight Team is a civilian group of aviators based out of the North Little Rock Airport. The group flies aircraft known as Vans RVs, a very popular two-seat aircraft licensed in the “experimental” category. They fly in close formation, trailing thick white smoke in events around the mid-south. The pilots are all seasoned aviation veterans and have undergone extensive formation flight training. They have each qualified for a certification commonly referred to as a “formation card”. A few of their most recent events include the Arkansas vs Texas football game, Wings Over Bryant Airshow, Labor Day flyovers for Bass Pro Shops at Big Cedar Lodge, The Salt Bowl, and a high school football game flyover at Greenbrier.

In a typical airshow performance, the group will change formations eight times all while making tight turns to keep the show in front of the crowd. There are 11 members of the team and performances are usually done in a six or seven ship formation. Patriotic events are favorites of the team to honor our military. This is also the group who drew the hearts in the sky over Little Rock, North Little Rock and Conway to honor our health care workers earlier this year.

Jerry Homsley is a Bulldog pilot and the team manager. If you would like to contact the team, you can contact him at 501-517-6210 or email at jhomsley@cebridge.net 



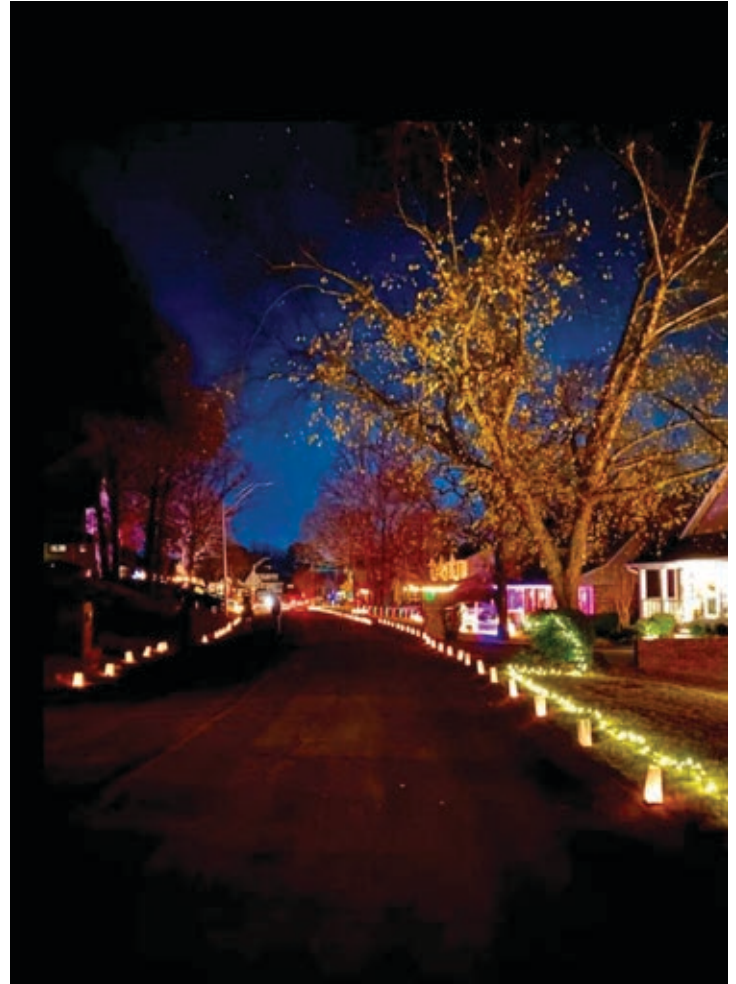
NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT: Windsor Valley Christmas Luminary

If you have ever been through the Windsor Valley Neighborhood on the first Sunday evening in December, you will never forget this remarkable sight! Over 450 houses, 22 streets all lined with glowing white sacks with candles, this Windsor Valley tradition dates back to the late 1980's-early 1990's with a few missing years in the 2010's when the original coordinators retired from the luminary planning process. Valerie Cauley and Brandi Legate, through the Windsor Valley Neighborhood Facebook page, revived this event in 2017 and it is better than ever!

"I have lived in Windsor Valley since 2005, so I had participated in and captained for my street for several years prior to the gap years. The Christmas luminary always felt like the official kick-off to the excitement and joy of Christmas activities; the years without it felt like the season was missing something," said Legate.

"I moved into Windsor Valley during the gap years and when it was suggested on the neighborhood Facebook page that we should revive the tradition, I was all in!" said Cauley. "It is a great way to be involved in your community, meet your neighbors, and make friends in the process... Just like Brandi and I did!"

The luminary display is a lot of work and is run by an all-volunteer team. Street captains volunteer to be the focal point for their street and the pick-up location for the luminary kits the day prior to the event. Other volunteers help count out 5,000 white paper sacks and votive candles into kits for each house. "We have one evening where the



volunteers meet at the sand pile to scoop a gallon of sand for each home to weigh down their luminary sacks. That's 450 bags of sand! It's hard work, but we usually go for a margarita after, so it's a lot of fun," said Legate.

In 2021, a new tradition related to the luminary was born: a neighborhood-wide home Christmas decorating contest! Photographs are taken and narrowed down to the Top 10 Best Decorated and placed on the Neighborhood Facebook page for votes. Last year's winner on Toltec Drive, received a yard sign, a \$50 gift card and bragging rights for the year. The Windsor Valley Neighborhood Luminary will be held this year on Sunday, December 5th starting at 6:00pm. Come out and enjoy this Free, Safe, Drive-Through Holiday experience that the whole family will love! 🏠

The School Year is in Full Force

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, staff, parents, and community on a successful reopening of our schools. We could not have done it without great collaboration and support as we seek to provide a high-quality education in the North Little Rock School District. Even though COVID-19 is here, it is our responsibility to make sure our students and staff are in a safe environment that is conducive to great teaching and engaged learning. We cannot have school if our students and staff are not in a safe, healthy environment.

We surveyed our stakeholders and asked if they would support a mask mandate throughout the school district. More than eighty percent of the respondents (nearly 4,000 people participated) said they did want masks to be mandatory. Masks are now required, and our students and staff are doing a phenomenal job of wearing them and protecting one another. Our nurses are doing a yeoman's job of helping us with transparency as it relates to the number of positive cases and close contacts in our district. You can see these numbers updated daily by early evening on our website, nlrsd.org. Our custodians are also going above and beyond to make sure our schools are disinfected. I cannot thank them enough for their tireless efforts.

Shortly after I officially started with the North Little Rock School District, I held a series of conversations with parents, staff, and community members. This process allowed me to collect data to learn of our strengths and the areas in which we need to improve. This information can be found in the Superintendent's 100 Day Transition Plan Summary Report, which I presented to the North Little Rock Board of Education in April. One of the themes

repeated throughout the process was the need for a brand new middle school in our district. I have been meeting with our administrators and some architects to begin to look at the feasibility of a new middle school, how it will look, and, of course, the ability to pay for it. We believe we can prove to the state we are in such dire need of a middle school, we will be able to garner matching funds. We will be keeping the community abreast of this process.

Thank you for your support of the North Little Rock School District. As I approach one year in this role as the Superintendent, I am still struck by the way the people in our community love and support our school district, and most importantly, our students. There is nothing that prevents us from being the best district in the state of Arkansas! Please join me in doing all we can to ensure our students have all the resources to be global leaders and thinkers after they graduate with a diploma from the North Little Rock School District.



Remember, you just can't hide that Charging Wildcat pride!

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

North Little Rock Job Fair

The City of North Little Rock recently held a Job Fair and COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Approximately 200 people attended the Job Fair and 48 submitted applications for employment. Monetary incentives, paid by the American Rescue Act,

were given to 188 people who received their COVID-19 vaccination. Thanks to volunteers from Seis Puentes, First Security Bank, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, The Medicine Man, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arkansas and Dr. and Mrs. Agustin Fernandez for helping make the Job Fair a success. The City is a great place to work and provides an excellent benefit package. Available positions are listed at www.nlr.ar.gov/jobs



Photographer's Work in Smithsonian



North Little Rock History is a rich and educational part of our city. Chris Huie, the son of Chinese immigrants, grew up in North Little Rock's Dark Hollow community in the 1940s and 1950s. His parents, George D.D. and Helen, owned and operated the Huie Grocery Store at 1400 Pine Street for three decades. After graduating from North Little Rock High School in 1959 and then attending Little Rock University (now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock), Chris Huie served in the United States Army in Germany. Huie went on to study photography at Rochester University in New York and earn a master's degree in history at New York University. In the early 1970s, he photographed a number of people and places in Dark Hollow as well as other areas of the city and state. The



Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. has 23 of Huie's photographs in its collection, including several depicting life in North Little Rock in the 1970s. Chris Huie now lives in San Francisco. 🏠

Unsheltered Community Q&A

When citizens contact the North Little Rock Office of the Unsheltered Community they reach Officer J. Rathey. Officer Rathey has worked diligently over the last few months to address issues and concerns with the Unsheltered Community in our city. Five Frequently Asked Questions, and Answers:

Q: Is it illegal for someone on the street corner to ask for money?

A: Supreme courts have ruled that panhandling for money at street corners, in conjunction with intersections, is a form of freedom of speech that falls underneath your First Amendment right. Homelessness and panhandling are not synonymous. Often, panhandlers are not homeless, have steady jobs, and commute to and from work each day by their vehicle. If you observe anyone being aggressive (making verbal threats/giving presentations of weapons) and blocking access to traffic while asking for money, please contact the police.

Q: What should I do if I see a "Homeless Camp"?

A: Contact the North Little Rock Office of the Unsheltered Community at (501) 975-8780 to report a Homeless Camp. It is difficult for law enforcement to enter private property and make arrests for criminal trespass without a victim. A written statement from the property owner will need to be composed. A statement distinguishing that no one has been allowed to reside or set up a camp will be required for proper enforcement.

Q: Is there an overnight shelter in the City of North Little Rock?


A: No. There is not an overnight shelter in the City of North Little Rock. However, many overnight shelters are in the City of Little Rock and the City of North Little Rock lists additional shelters on our website, nlr.ar.gov. Be sure to click on "Government", "Unsheltered Community", and then "Resource Brochure."

Q: I want to give back to the unsheltered community. How can I help?

A: Officer J. Rathey is our Liaison to the Unsheltered Community and welcomes volunteer assistance for special events or donations of various forms. Monetary donations are accepted and are tax-deductible. All monetary submissions must be provided via check, written to the "City of North Little Rock". Do not hesitate to contact Officer Rathey at (501) 975-8780 if you want to assist in any way.

Q: Do you know how many unsheltered individuals we have in the City of North Little Rock?


A: There is no accurate count of the unsheltered within the City of North Little Rock. A large percentage of the unsheltered within the city are transient, meaning individuals that travel from state to state, city to city. Often, unsheltered individuals may travel via Union Pacific freight train, Greyhound Bus, and even by hitchhiking. With many unsheltered individuals passing through the City of North Little Rock, it is challenging to count how many of the unsheltered reside within the city.

"Be careful when approaching individuals who may be panhandling. Although individuals may be asking for help, it can be difficult in determining the legitimacy of their needs and actions. Please remain aware and be safe in your actions if you decide to help," shared Officer Rathey. 

Regional Greenways


North Little Rock is the region's transportation fulcrum where major interstates, railroads, and waterways converge. North Little Rock will play a crucial role in shaping the regional greenways system, currently in its planning stages. Metroplan has pledged \$55 million over the next decade towards greenways construction. Before that money can be spent, the organization will complete and adopt a plan that will designate detailed routes and trail design features. Greenways or trails will eventually span Faulkner, Lonoke, Pulaski, and Saline Counties and connect residents to important destinations around Central Arkansas. Five major corridors have been identified, three of which run through the city. The three corridors stretch northwest to Conway,

northeast to Cabot, and east to Lonoke. The Southwest Trail towards Benton and a Central Beltway in Little Rock round out the five routes. This world class greenways network will attract pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders, and other active users of all ages from across the region and beyond. The resulting transportation, recreation, and economic benefits should manifest in a happier, healthier, more connected North Little Rock and Central Arkansas community.

Please visit www.centralarkgreenways.com and click the survey link on the front page of the website. Take the survey and help create a world class, multi-use greenway system in Central Arkansas. 

Bicycle Pump Track

The City of North Little Rock's Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with American Ramp Company on design and construction of a bicycle pump track. The pump track is one part of a larger bike park project which will be located in the Big Rock Quarry Park. The park is located along the Arkansas River between the Riverview Skate Park and Burns Park.

The pump track is currently in the design phase and construction should begin later this year. This pump track will have an asphalt surface, will be fun to ride, will build riding skills along with fitness and almost anyone will be able to ride it. We are excited to add this track to our parks system in North Little Rock. 

BIG ROCK QUARRY BIKE PARK

North Little Rock, AR

Phase 1: Pump Track



Rockland Bike Park — Madison, CT



Geer Bike Park — Salem, Oregon






North Little Rock Parks and Recreation
where memorable moments happen



Big Damn Bridge 100 Cycling Tour - This cycling tour consists of a variety of route lengths ranging from 15 miles to 100 miles through central Arkansas. This yearly event brings in more than 3000 riders from across the state and country to our city and central Arkansas. One of the highlights of this tour is crossing the Big Dam Bridge (one of the longest bicycle/pedestrian bridges in the world - built for that purpose) along with scenic views of the Arkansas River, Big Rock Quarry (shown in the photo), Pinnacle Mountain, and other locations.

All-Inclusive Playground at Laman Plaza

The City of North Little Rock is building an all-inclusive park at the Laman Plaza. The park is a high quality, universally designed play space on the footprint of the old water fountain. This playground can accommodate up to 269 children at a time. Poured-in-place rubber surfacing makes the playground wheelchair accessible. The main play structure is wheelchair accessible and the playground will also provide a wheelchair accessible merry-go-round and an inclusive swing.

This project is a win for the City of North Little Rock. The Laman Plaza, all-inclusive playground creates an inclusive playground for the Laman Library and North Little Rock Parks & Recreation Department. The location of the all-inclusive playground between the library and North Little Rock Community Center will provide better services for our constituents. This project improves access to play for children with disabilities and 200+ children and teens that come from local low-income neighborhoods every day to use our library as a community center. We envision this space will be a destination for families, building community across economic barriers and abilities. The space will transform an underutilized park into a beautiful park for families of all demographics, who can spend the day going between the library and the park/playground for free. The space is on the bus route making it accessible for everyone. 



There are many soccer tournaments held throughout the year at our 17-field soccer complex in Burns Park. Most recent was the Showcase of the South Girls Tournament.

North Little Rock Community Garden Program

The North Little Rock Community Garden Program is blossoming with excitement as we transition into autumn! Our gardeners are hard at work removing summer crops, improving their soil, and planting a plethora of leafy greens, among other crops, for the fall planting season. If you are interested in growing this season, check out the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture Research and Extension's "Monthly Planting Guide".

September was Hunger Action Month and the North Little Rock Community Garden Program joined Feeding America's "Campaign to End Hunger". In Arkansas, nearly one-in-five people experience food insecurity; meaning limited or uncertain access to healthy, affordable, and nutritious food. Many of our neighbors are forced to choose between food and other essential needs. There are many ways we can work to address food insecurity; like donating, fundraising, sharing and volunteering. In addition to volunteering with us, other opportunities in North Little Rock include Potluck Food Rescue and Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. The St. Joseph Center of Arkansas is hosting "Whacky Wednesdays", a weekly garden-based volunteer opportunity. Remember, food should not be an impossible choice!

Following the Fall Grant application process, six garden applications were approved across North Little Rock for funding. We are elated to welcome the Veteran's Trail Garden, near West 37th Street, into the Community Garden Program!

Our Full Circle FarmCorps members Starr Crow and Arjo Mitra graduated from their AmeriCorps program in late August, finishing their term with a total of 2,420 service hours and 331 pounds of produce donated to Potluck Food Rescue and the communities of North Little Rock. We are proud to see them both continue to use their newfound skills and knowledge



Summer Work Day at Pike View Early Childhood Center with garden managers, community volunteers, and Full Circle FarmCorps service members. Top Row (from left to right): Arjo Mitra, Robyn Dundrik, Chelle Kelly, Marcie Finney, Stephen Booth, Mark Anthony Ramiro, Pat Cullivan; Bottom Row (from left to right): Starr Crow, Anna Sawyer, Adara Kelly

as they enter the workforce. Starr is the new Volunteer Program Coordinator for Engage Arkansas, which manages State AmeriCorps sub-grant programs, and Arjo is doing part-time landscaping work for the Argenta Downtown Council.

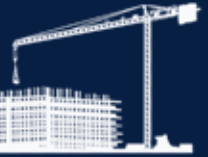


We would like to extend a gracious "thank you" to our garden managers, volunteers, NLR constituents, and local partners for continuing to support the North Little Rock Community Garden Program. A special shout out to Heifer Urban Farm for greenhouse support; Potluck Food Rescue for redistributing our excess garden produce; Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance for agricultural and technical consulting; 2Twenty1 Coffee for providing used coffee grounds; Habitat for Humanity for connecting us with eager gardeners; and American Composting for donating an abundance of soil, compost, and mulch.

If you are interested in starting a community garden, volunteering, or simply want to learn more about our program, contact Anna Sawyer, asawyer@nlr.ar.gov, 501-351-0184 and follow us on Instagram, @nlrcommunitygardens. We hope to continue digging for change and growing for the future in North Little Rock! 



Economic Development



Amazon's NLR facility opened with an eye on diversity, equity and inclusion being a top priority!

Sunday, September 5th, at 6:30 am, the new Amazon non-sort facility located off Highway 70 at the Galloway exit opened its doors. Gospel recording artist and Shorter College SGA President, Ms. Dottie Racy Wilson, belted out the National Anthem as the Color Guard from Harding University raised the American Flag to kick off the opening.

Amazon announced the project in late 2020 even though construction had already begun in September of 2020. This is the second distribution facility to open in Central Arkansas, after the robotic sort facility opened in late summer at the Little Rock Port. Unfortunately, the big opening the Amazon team planned had to be pushed back due to a delay. There will be an event planned soon that will include the North Little Rock Mayor,

City Council Members, as well as North Little Rock High School. There will also be an event in early 2022 to celebrate both central Arkansas distribution centers with state and local officials.

The facility and its sister facility at the Little Rock Port, combine for over 1,800,000 square feet of building footprints. The North Little Rock Facility has 1,078,342 square feet and 1.3 million square feet of warehouse




space when you add in the mezzanine, 24 acres under one roof. You can fit 27 football fields inside and it has enough steel to build the Eiffel Tower. The two operations will employ close to 2000 employees by the end of the year.

The week of August 23rd-27th, members of the Central Arkansas community assisted in preparing for the launch of the new North Little Rock Amazon fulfillment center. As part of the launch process, the Amazon management team hosted over 60 members of the local leadership staff in a weeklong leadership workshop. On August 25th, members of the Mayor's staff collaborated with

other esteemed panelists to serve on a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) panel. The panelists represented a variety of thought leaders and provided keen insight into DE&I perspectives from the greater North Little Rock area. Panelists included UCA Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Angela Webster; NLR resident John Gaudin; founding President of the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus of Arkansas, Joshua Ang Price; Former Director of the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub based in NLR, Dr. Chris Jones; Dr. Arnessa Bennett, Special Projects Director for the City of North Little Rock and, Colleen Carr, Director of Workforce


Development for the City of North Little Rock. Robert Birch, Director of Development, served as the host/moderator for the panel.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a high-priority at Amazon. "We are a company of builders who bring varying backgrounds, ideas, and points of view to inventing on behalf of our customers. Our diverse perspectives come from many sources including gender, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation, culture, education, and professional and life experience. We are committed to diversity and inclusion and always look for ways to scale our impact as we grow." 

Jumpstart Update

The Levy project is fully underway and the vision is starting to come to life. There have been some bumps along the way, but it will be worth it when completed. One of the biggest delays was in getting concrete and working with some unforeseen issues with utilities. The project is now moving swiftly. The results will be a more walkable, inviting Levy that will help attract new businesses and citizens to the area. The planned date of completion is November 26, 2021.

The construction team is working very hard to meet that deadline. We can't wait to see the finished results!!

The Park Hill project has been approved by ArDOT and bids were sent out in August. Due to the rising cost of materials over the last six months, bids came in above the \$2.8 million dollar funding grant. City officials are working with Metroplan and ArDOT to work out a solution. A decision is likely to be announced before the end of the year. 

Small Business: Leveraging opportunities with community partners

Small businesses in North Little Rock are what gives the city its flavor; they are what make it unique. Whether it is a downtown attraction or a hole in the wall restaurant with amazing food, the small business community is the lifeblood of any city. COVID has been hard on everyone. Before March of 2020 the employment rate was hovering at a tight 3.7%, jobs were full and there was not much to worry about. As the economy begins to recover, many businesses have learned to adapt to the COVID rules and are surviving. Vaccinations have helped, but there is still a long way to go. (At the time of this article,

the State of Arkansas sits at a 46% vaccination rate.) Currently the metro labor market is trending back towards the levels of February 2020. Currently the unemployment rate sits at 4.7%. Everywhere you look, you see "We Are Hiring" signs in front of businesses. So why isn't unemployment lower? How can small businesses compete with large corporations? Where can they go for advice and guidance? These are all questions that have been asked over the last year and a half. The Economic Development office for the City of North Little Rock has some answers and insight that may be beneficial.

The needs of employees have definitely changed. There are ways that small businesses may be able to take advantage of these changes to compete for employees. Here are just a few:

1. Offer flexible scheduling. This is very important to families. Being flexible allows working families more time to spend with their children and avoid some of the high costs associated with childcare.
2. Explore opportunities to work remotely.
3. Work with your high schools and local higher education institutions which offer internships as some

schools have grants to pay the interns. In North Little Rock, both the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College and Shorter College have intern programs.

4. Rethink the constraints of the typical hiring process. In the past, businesses have held strict rules of degrees being essential to employment. “No Degree, No Talent,” was a phrase used in the past. There are many employable individuals with certifications instead of degrees these days.
5. Flexibility of your work culture to evolve. Large companies at times can be stagnate to culture change. Small businesses can adapt and change the way they present their company’s culture. Many small businesses invest in their culture as a way to maintain employee wellbeing and longevity.

Where can small businesses find assistance to start or grow their business? Many avenues are available for a small business, to start or grow:


1. **Higher Education institutions.** In Central Arkansas we are fortunate to have several colleges and universities close by. Each of these institutions have business schools that can provide insight and knowledge, sometimes at no charge, to small businesses. They are also excellent sources for non-credit training opportunities for employees. At University of Arkansas at Pulaski Technical College, customizable programs are designed by industry experts to meet the needs of your organization. Whether it be upskilling, reskilling, or talent acquisition,

the faculty and staff at the University of Arkansas at Pulaski Technical College can work with you to find a solution to best fit your needs. Shorter College is offering training through the reimagine workforce grant it received. This grant offers a path to those that may have fallen out of the workforce to receive training and certifications to strength the city’s workforce.

2. **Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub.** From entrepreneurial training to workforce training, the Hub offers a great learning space to grow and even house your business. There is workforce training available for multiple industries that can be tailored to a business’s needs and schedule. The Hub can assist you in marketing and communicating your business as well.
3. **The North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.** The Chamber has over 1200 members and offers advice and information to businesses of all sizes. They offer businesses many channels to connect with other members and to serve the community on a number of different committees: leads groups operate out of the chamber that allow exchange of leads, ideas and information through the fellowship of a diverse group of professionals. Another goal of the chamber is to be a lobbying arm for the North Little Rock business community.
4. **Small Business Administration (SBA).** Connecting to the local SBA office, a business has an opportunity to connect to hundreds of great resources. A business can apply for all

federal aid programs easily through the portal on the website. There are guides to launching, managing and growing your business with access to free data. This is a necessary resource for small businesses. From start to finish the SBA website www.sba.gov is key to a successful businesses.

5. **City Government.** How do you actually get the doors open for a new business in the City of North Little Rock? Mayor Hartwick and the City Council members know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and are what makes North Little Rock unique. In July of 2021, Colleen Carr was hired to the staff of the Economic Development office in the City of North Little Rock to assist our small businesses and prepare our workforce. The city is developing an easy to follow A-Z process of starting a small business in North Little Rock. This process will provide the necessary guidance and information to make doing business in North Little Rock easy. Visit the City of North Little Rock website at nlr.ar.gov for more resources for businesses.

Together, we can build a strong North Little Rock economy, one that attracts talent and businesses of all kinds. From large distribution centers, technical companies, manufacturing, entertainment opportunities, unique local stores and restaurants. The key to success is knowledge and availability of resources. In North Little Rock we have strong partners to ensure our small business community is successful. 



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Neighborhood Services

Since 1994 the Neighborhood Services Department has been charged with assisting and coordinating with neighborhood action groups in furthering their goals of reducing crime and preserving the history and culture of North Little Rock's neighborhoods. The department assists neighborhood groups with preventing blight and deterioration of property values and with improving the quality of life in our residential neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services works with neighborhood associations, community development corporations, crime watches, property owners associations, and home owners associations in our city.


Assistance takes many forms, from helping groups keep their residents informed, to providing training on running effective meetings. Neighborhood Services' main objective is to strengthen neighborhood groups and empower those groups to improve their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services produces a newsletter every other month with information for residents and calendars of upcoming meetings. The department maintains a small inventory of equipment (tables,

We believe strong neighborhoods make for a strong city.



chairs, popup tents) for use by neighborhood associations for community events. Equipment is not loaned out for personal or religious events.


Neighborhood Services currently staffs the City Beautiful Commission and the Thomas Cemetery Committee. It also processes City Beautiful applications, Ward Beautification applications, and street closure applications for events not happening in a city park or along the river trail area. It can provide supplies to groups picking up litter in North Little Rock. Currently the City's Community Gardens program is under the Neighborhood Services Department.

Neighborhood Services has, at times, been tasked with reaching neighborhood residents about items of concern, from flood warnings to crime information to street closures for repairs to events involving focusing city departments' efforts on specific neighborhoods. Sometimes this outreach can include mailing information to neighborhoods or hand delivering information to every structure within a targeted area. We believe strong neighborhoods make for a strong city. 

Shelby to Head Fit2Live

Mayor Hartwick recently named LaKaisha Shelby as the Director of the Fit2Live Program in the City of North Little Rock. Shelby, a distinguished graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) holds a Bachelor of Health Education and Promotion with a minor in Health and Education. She was named to the Dean's List three consecutive years while attending UALR. Shelby



most recently worked at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration. She has extensive customer service experience working for both private companies and state agencies. Shelby commented, "I am excited about the opportunity to continue developing the Employee Wellness Plan and the Fit2Live Initiative in the City of North Little Rock." 

FALL in North Little Rock

Given the state of COVID-19 in Arkansas, events may be postponed or cancelled. Visit www.northlittlerock.org/events for the latest calendar of events in North Little Rock.

- October 30:
Festival of Laughs – Simmons Bank Arena
- November – December:
Photos with Santa at McCain Mall
- November 3 – 13:
The Sound of Music – Argenta Community Theater
- November 4:
Lil Baby & Friends – Simmons Bank Arena
- November 6 & 7:
Paw Patrol Live! – Simmons Bank Arena
- November 9:
Christmas Tree Lighting - Argenta Plaza, 6 pm
- November 12 & 13:
Argenta Dogtown Throwdown – Argenta Arts District
- November 13:
St. Joseph Center Historic Building Tour
- November 18:
Newsboys – Simmons Bank Arena
- November 20:
Northern Lights & Holiday Market - Argenta Plaza
- December 5:
Windsor Valley Luminaire
- December 5:
North Little Rock Christmas Parade
- December 8 – 18:
A Christmas Carol – Argenta Community Theater
- December 9:
North Little Rock Justice Center Open House, 10 am


Five free cool-weather activities in North Little Rock

Fall in North Little Rock is usually brief but glorious: gorgeous fall color, crisp cool air before diving straight into winter. The North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau has rounded up some cool-weather recommendations for things to do in North Little Rock.

1. The Old Mill at T. R. Pugh Memorial Park is beautiful year-round, but each season brings its own hues. The fall brings out those lovely oranges and reds around the timeless structure of The Old Mill. Take family photos or just relax and enjoy the peaceful scenery.



2. Burns Park may be just off the interstate, but as soon as you take your first turn, you could be blissfully in the middle of nowhere. The park is perfect for a leisurely drive with gentle curves through wooded hills. For a photo opportunity, stop by the iconic red covered bridge or the Heilman Cabin. Leashed dogs are welcome throughout the park and there's a dog park where you can unleash.
3. Emerald Park is known for its beautiful cliffs crowned with trees, overlooking the Little Rock city skyline to the east and Pinnacle Mountain to the west. Park behind the University of Arkansas at Pulaski Technical College for an easy walk to the cliffs, or drive down River Road, past Rockwater Marina, to explore the quarry below.
4. St. Joseph Center of Arkansas is the quintessential sprawling farm, with livestock and gardens to boot. Explore the grounds, meet the animals and shop local on Saturdays through the end of October during farm stand hours.
5. Dining and live music abound in Argenta Arts District. With big events at Simmons Bank Arena, seasonal performances at local theaters, there's always something going on downtown. Every second weekend (until it gets too cold) is Argenta Dogtown Throwdown, when Main Street closes and tents go up for people to enjoy dining outside with live music. Check argentaartsdistrict.org for more events in Argenta.

For more information about upcoming events and local dining, visit www.northlittlerock.org or stop by the North Little Rock Welcome Center at 600 Main Street, open Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm for information and to shop North Little Rock and Arkansas products. Shop online and pick up curbside: www.northlittlerock.org/register. 



CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT



Code Enforcement General Information

A Reference for Residents in North Little Rock

The mission of the Code Enforcement Department is to provide minimum requirements to safeguard the health and safety as well as the general welfare of citizens by regulating and enforcing the municipal codes in North Little Rock.

What is a **Violation**?

- Blighted, unmaintained, unsecured, or unsafe properties
- Graffiti
- Illegal dumping (property owner is responsible for removal of dumping on private property)
- Inoperable/junk vehicles
- Overgrown grass
- Storage of junk and debris
- Substandard housing conditions
- Zoning violations

What is **NOT** a Violation?

- Civil disputes between private parties
- Evictions
- Operable vehicles parked on the street
- Personal grievances



Steps to Compliance

- 1. A citizen reports a concern to the Code Enforcement Department. Most commonly reported concerns are:**
 - Abandoned or neglected buildings or vehicle
 - Garbage or debris
 - Outdoor storage
 - Overgrown grass
 - Rental complaints
- 2. A Code Enforcement Officer conducts an inspection of the property.**
 - If no violation is found, the case is closed: "no violation."
 - If a violation is confirmed, a notice is left at the property and/or a Notice of Violation is mailed to both the property owner and the address where the violation is located.
- 3. The Notice of Violation indicates the timeline in which the violation must be corrected.** If the property owner needs more time to bring the property into compliance, a reasonable timeline extension may be requested by contacting the Code Enforcement Officer who issued the Notice of Violation.
- 4. Once repairs are scheduled to be completed, the Code Enforcement Officer re-inspects the property.**
 - If the violation has been corrected, the case is closed.
 - If the violation is still present or progress has not been made, Code Enforcement may issue a citation and/or pursue abatement.
 - The Code Enforcement Officer makes regular re-inspections until compliance is met.



Commonly Asked Questions:

What happens if I don't cut my grass or correct other violations stated on a notice from the Code Enforcement Department?

- You could be issued a citation to appear in court.
- The City can cut the grass at a cost of \$185.00 per cut.

What happens if I don't pay that bill?

- A lien is filed against your personal property for the cost of abatement.

How much is the fine if I go to court?

- You could be fined up to \$500 if the violation is continuous in nature. The penalty for allowing the continuance thereof is a fine not to exceed \$250.00 per day for each day that the violation is unlawfully continued. The judge will determine the fine.

If I have a substandard structure needing to be demolished, what steps should I take to remove it?

- Call 811 and have all utilities disconnected.
- Contact the planning department and obtain a demolition permit.
- Make sure the site is cleared of all debris and the ground is leveled.

Can I, or someone else, live in a travel trailer in my yard?

- No.

If my landlord has not made the repairs that I requested, can I stop paying rent?

- No, that will give your landlord grounds to evict you for non-payment of rent (please refer to the Attorney General's Office Landlord and Tenant Rights).
- Contact our Rental Inspector to schedule an appointment to help address the issues.

Can I store an inoperable or wrecked vehicle in my yard?

- No, the parking, keeping, or storing of inoperable or wrecked motor vehicles, or any parts thereof, is considered to be a public nuisance.

Can I park my car in the yard?

- Yes, unless you are in a restricted parking district, which does not allow parking on the grass.

Can I keep or store my household furniture outside?

- Not if the furniture or other items are manufactured for indoor use.

Complaints **NOT handled by the Code Enforcement Department:**

- Animal complaints. Animal Control 501 791-8577
- Pot holes Street (Unit 50) 501 340-5355
- Permits (Building, Plumbing, Electrical, etc.). . . . Planning/Permits 501 975-8835
- Trash not being emptied/illegal dumping Sanitation 501 371-8340



For additional information, please refer to the City of North Little Rock Nuisance Abatement and Property Maintenance Code on the City's website: nlr.ar.gov or call 791-8581.

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
Economic Development	Todd Larson	975-8614	tlarson@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
Fit2Live	LaKaisha Shelby	442-7406	kshelby@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	Dr. 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	jhailan.rathey@nlrpolice.org
Vehicle Maintenance	Kenny Brock	340-5371	kbrock@nlr.ar.gov
Workforce Development	Colleen Carr	247-1852	ccarr@nlr.ar.gov
Wastewater	Michael Clayton	945-7186	mclayton@nlrwu.com

