

north
little
rock

PROUD

Spring 2023, Vol. 06, No. 01.

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office



INSIDE:
STATE OF THE CITY
Economic Development Progress

During 2022, the city broke ground on a new health care clinic in Rose City, built a new fire station in Burns Park, opened a new pump track, started a new Municipal Identification Program to equip citizens, purchased automated sanitation trucks and new garbage containers for all residents in our city, demolished the old Greyhound Bus station to allow for more growth downtown, began street and drainage work on Faulkner Lake Road and many other parts of our city. The city purchased land for a new Central Fire Station in Mid City which will better serve more of our residents. So many exciting things are happening in all areas of our city. I take pride in how hard our city employees work for our citizens and the spirit of community we all share. North Little Rock continues to be a leader in economic development in Central Arkansas and in our state. I am looking forward to 2023 and what the future holds for the City of North Little Rock.

Terry C. Hartwick
Mayor Terry C. Hartwick



North Little Rock broke ground on an outdoor pickleball facility earlier this year. The new, 12-court addition to our Parks and Recreation department will be open in early June.

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north little rock **PROUD**

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City of North Little Rock 2022 State of the City

Reflecting on 2022

Mayor Hartwick recently presented the State of the City video and printed report to the North Little Rock City Council. Accountability and communication are both integral to the success our city has experienced. Please scan the QR codes below to learn more about all of the great things we accomplished in North Little Rock during 2022.



**State of the City
Video**



**State of the City
Digital Publication**

Coming in 2023

- ◆ Construction begins on Baptist Health Clinic in Rose City
- ◆ Burns Park Fire Station opens
- ◆ Pickleball courts will open in Burns Park
- ◆ Faulkner Lake Road project will be completed
- ◆ Renovations will begin at the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center
- ◆ Park Hill Jump Start project will be completed
- ◆ The design will be completed for the new Central Fire Station in Mid City
- ◆ North Little Rock City Services will be relocating in early April to the former Blue Cross Blue Shield building located at the intersection of Pershing Boulevard and Percy Machin Drive in North Little Rock. The Finance, Engineering, Human Resources, Community Development, and Planning Departments as well as the City Attorney will soon be centrally located, making accessibility more efficient for residents. The North Little Rock Fire Department training center will be located in the new building along with several IT and North Little Rock Electric Department offices. Sometime later this year the 911 Control Center will be onsite as well. The address of the new North Little Rock City Services building is 700 West 29th Street.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Over \$340,000,000 in Economic Development projects were announced in 2022 and close to 1,100 jobs created. The city closed on 19 residential lots totaling \$46,000 and five commercial properties totaling \$1,643,687. The two-year total of property sold was \$2,066,889.

Workforce Development

- Worked with Shorter College on issues with their new residents' hall.
- Worked with the University of Arkansas at Pulaski Technical College on their new visioning program.
- Attended the Career Academies event for all ninth graders in the North Little Rock School District.
- Hosted the Make 48 Event at The Innovation Hub. Showcased for the City Council in November.



Rose City Health Clinic

- \$4,000,000 investment in our community
- 20+ Jobs. Estimated completion: spring 2024
- This partnership with Baptist Health is the first full-service medical facility in the east part of North Little Rock/Rose City since 2013.



Dollar General Distribution Center

- \$140,000,000 investment in our community
- 600 Jobs. Estimated completion: early 2024
- In support of the project the City passed an ACT 9 Bond Tax Abatement issue and ArDOT awarded the city \$809,000 to widen Highway 70.

Lowe's Distribution Center (render shown below)

- \$105,000,000 investment in our community
- 300 Jobs. Estimated completion: the end of 2023
- The city is working to acquire an ACT 9 Bond Tax Abatement issue in support of the project.



Federal Metal

- \$17,000,000 investment in our community
- 45 Jobs. Estimated completion: early 2024
- The first, stand-alone facility of its kind will source certain scrap metal products and recycle/refine them using a proprietary process. Finished goods will be sold throughout the United States and internationally.

Hale Trailer Brake & Wheel

- \$20,000,000 investment in our community
- 45 Jobs. Estimated completion: the end of 2023
- The new, 46,000 square foot office and showroom sits at Interstate 440 and Faulkner Lake Road on 22 acres.

Creative Foam, LLC

- \$8,000,000 investment in our community
- 30 new jobs. Estimated completion: the end of 2024
- Purchased the former P&G building in early 2022 and began renovating the 270,000 square foot building.

Applied Technology Group (ATG)

- \$1,000,000 investment in our community
- 200 Jobs
- This Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software sales and support company started in 1992 and is now a national company, headquartered in North Little Rock. In partnership with Sage Partners, ATG remodeled the former US Bank Building.

Safe Foods Expansion

- \$14,000,000-\$20,000,000 investment in our community
- 30 Jobs. Estimated completion: mid 2023
- The food safety management company will increase production at its North Little Rock headquarters. The construction of a new blending plant will double the production capacity for Safe Foods' organic food wash with the addition of a new reactor and two bulk storage tanks. The project also includes a new 55,000 square foot packaging facility and warehouse that will allow Safe Foods to manufacture 19 additional product lines for PSSI that will be used to protect consumers from foodborne illnesses.

WinRock International

- \$3,000,000 investment in our community
- 100 jobs
- Estimated completion: November 2023
- The headquarters will result in an increased capacity of WinRock United States programs staff within in the building. The upgrades to the building include the creation of the Best Buy Teen Technical Center and a solar canopy in our parking lot. This will create an increased capacity of our STEAM educational and entrepreneurial programs, access to Makerspace tools and resources.



Jump Start

- Levy: Completed in October 2022
- Park Hill: Estimated completion is September 2023

Parklets

Two parklets were constructed on Main Street in North Little Rock during 2022. The concept of parklets, public seating areas that convert curbside parking spaces into vibrant community spaces, such as street seating or curbside restaurant seating, aims to increase transit and foot traffic, help businesses and enhance already busy downtown areas. The Parklet project was a joint venture with the Argenta Downtown Council, Rock Region Metro and the North Little Rock Economic Development Team.

Maly Entertainment

- \$28,000,000 investment in our community
- 300 Jobs. Construction to begin the end of 2024
- This family entertainment venue is similar to T-Shotz or Top Golf
- The project will be located on 30 acres formerly owned by Wild River Country on Crystal Hill Road.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A graphic element consisting of a bar chart with five vertical bars of increasing height from left to right. A thick black arrow curves upwards and to the right, starting from the top of the first bar and ending above the fifth bar. The word "DEVELOPMENT" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, following the curve of the arrow.

NLR's FINEST



The North Little Rock Police Department recently celebrated the promotion of two officers. Officer Jhailan Rathey (pictured below) was promoted to Sergeant and Lieutenant Ron Messer (pictured above) was promoted to Captain. Congratulations to both Captain Messer and Sergeant Rathey. The North Little Rock Police Department continues to grow the group of men and women serving and protecting our city by providing an opportunity for growth in a fulfilling and nurturing environment. Scan the QR code to learn more about becoming part of a great team.





BURNS PARK FIRE STATION 8

Station 8 Progress

Fire Station 8 in Burns Park is on schedule to be completed in mid-March. The attractive lodge design fits seamlessly into the surroundings. It was designed by Jackson Brown Palculict architects and the construction is being done by C.B.M. General Contractors. Important design features include a decontamination area to remove the carcinogens firefighters are exposed to while fighting fires and prevent them from entering the living quarters, safe room and fitness area. There is also a separate office and sleeping quarters for the battalion chiefs of Battalion 8 tucked away in the back corner of the apparatus bay.

Station 11 Progress

The design process for Fire Station 11 that will be built at Highway 165 and Blaze Lane is well under way. The architect has delivered preliminary concept drawings and is working on a final draft. Contract negotiations with a construction manager are well underway.

Training

The training division of the fire department recently moved to the new city services building located at 700 West 29th Street, which is at the corner of Percy Machin Drive and Pershing Boulevard. This will provide much needed space for our training officers as well as office and study space for firefighters.

New Truck in Service

The North Little Rock Fire Department recently received a 100-foot mid-mount aerial platform truck. The new truck will better equip North Little Rock firefighter training.

Smoke Divers

Two of our firefighters, Lieutenant Hunter Moix and Firefighter Brandon Graham will be attending the prestigious Oklahoma Smoke Divers training. This is an extremely challenging training course that requires firefighters to complete an extensive prequalification program. Firefighters are subjected to demanding physical and mental testing to qualify. These two firefighters were selected to attend out of several hundred highly-qualified applicants from Oklahoma and surrounding states. They are the first North Little Rock firefighters to attend this elite 60-hour program.

Three New Firefighters


We currently have three new firefighters at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy: Firefighters Richard Herring, Ashley Meyer, and Michael Mara will soon be back in town and on the job. 

Mayor's *Youth Council*

There are 70 members in the North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council, ages 14 to 18. Members are required to participate in four hours of service per month and complete a community project of their choice. Most years, the total hours served by the council is over 10,000. The council is in its 24th year in North Little Rock and serves area nonprofits, schools, and city functions. Examples of volunteerism: North Little Rock's Northern Lights in Argenta Plaza, schools' fall festivals, the annual sidewalk art event for the THEA Foundation, ringing the bells for the Salvation Army and filling Christmas stockings for children.



Examples of Council members' projects:

- Keeping a free supply of women's hygiene items in the girls' restrooms at North Little Rock High School.
- Collecting towels, blankets, toys and kibble for the North Little Rock Animal Shelter.
- Holding drives for the Canvas Homeless Outreach Program: collecting socks, shoes, clothing, backpacks, hygiene supplies and blankets.
- Hosting bake sales to pay for a family's month-long stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their child is in Arkansas Children's Hospital.
- Organizing and holding a fundraiser for Smile Train to raise money to fix a cleft lip and palate for a child.
- Collecting books for Little Free Libraries in our city and groceries for the Little Free Pantry in front of Ridge Road Elementary School.
- Collecting backpacks in August and filling them with school supplies for kids at Ridge Road Elementary School. 





Teen Court: A Juvenile Diversion Program

The North Little Rock Teen Court (NLRTC) program is a juvenile diversion program that utilizes positive peer-pressure to create behavior changes. Established in 2008 by North Little Rock District Court Judge Paula Juels Jones, it is currently administered by Judge Jones and Christina Yielding of the North Little Rock City Attorney's Office. The program partners with North Little Rock High School and

teachers serve as a point of contact between the students and NLRTC.


Teen Court is utilized for low-level misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses, as well as school discipline issues. The process begins when a juvenile offender is diverted from juvenile court to NLRTC. Each offender must admit their guilt to participate. Student attorneys are assigned as prosecutors and defenders and students



also serve on the jury. A jury trial is held regarding the punishment of the offender and the jury decides the punishment in the form of community service hours, Teen Court jury terms and essays regarding their Teen Court experience.

"I feel a great sense of pride when I see these student attorneys trying to help their peers," Judge Jones said. "I am also proud of the service of our student jurors. We stress that everyone involved in Teen Court is there to help the offender, not punish them."

Judge Jones has been involved with the Teen Court program at the state and national level and has helped numerous programs get started in Pulaski County.


For more information about North Little Rock Teen Court please visit nlrteencourt.com. 



WOW! What a Memory!

There are BIG changes coming to the North Little Rock Heritage Center downtown at 506 Main Street. A new permanent exhibit including residents' memories of growing up in North Little Rock is being planned.

Our city has a vast and interesting history, but there are a lot of YOUR untold stories out there. We are working on a three-dimensional interactive map of neighborhoods in North Little Rock and would love to have your stories about growing up. Where did you live? What did you do for entertainment? Tell us about your neighborhood when you were young and growing up. We would love to see your photos and hear your stories so we can share them with future generations.

You may send us your memories by email at nlrhistory@comcast.net (please put "Memories" in the subject line) or call us at (501) 371-0755. Also, check out our Facebook page at "North Little Rock History Commission" for additional details. Our mailing address is North Little Rock Heritage Center, 506 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114. 





Beauty, relaxation and refreshment awaits in your hometown of North Little Rock, Arkansas! With plenty of outdoor activity, natural beauty, delicious local dining and things to do, you and your crew can count on a fun experience.



Emerald Park

The North Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau is here to assist you with finding things to do. Visit northlittlerock.org/events or come see us at the North Little Rock Welcome Center, 600 Main Street, Suite 120. For information on the go, download our free app, “Explore North Little Rock!,” available iOS and Android, or sign up for our bimonthly newsletter by emailing stephanie@northlittlerock.org. Outdoors and Nature: Cycle the Arkansas River Trail or try the new Big Rock Quarry Bike Park. Complete the Public Art Scavenger Hunt. See how many landmarks, public art murals and sculptures you can find around North Little Rock! See World War II naval vessels up close at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. Arkansas Travelers minor league baseball team returns to action April 11, 2023. One of the great things about North Little Rock is that pretty much everything is family-friendly! Any of the above activities are great for kids as well. Burn off energy at Burns Park! There are miles of trails, disc golf courses, several playgrounds - including the

accessible One Heart Playground - and the seasonal Funland Amusement Park. If your dogs are part of your family like ours are, then you will love the new Barks and Rec Dog Park! Also check out our plethora of outdoor, pet-friendly dining options. A highlight of upcoming events:

- March 16: Blake Shelton, Simmons Bank Arena
- March 17: Third Friday Art Walk, Argenta Arts District
- March 19: Winter Jam, Simmons Bank Arena
- March 25: Building a Raised Garden Planter Workshop, Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub
- March 25 and March 26: Monster Jam, Simmons Bank Arena
- April 1: Kane Brown, Simmons Bank Arena
- April 11: Opening Day for Arkansas Travelers
- April 19 – April 29: *Cinderella*, Argenta Community Theater
- April 21: Third Friday Art Walk, Argenta Arts District
- April 26 – April 30: Ballet Arkansas presents “Live at the Plaza”, Argenta Plaza
- April 28: Tedeschi Trucks Band, Simmons Bank Arena
- May 4 – May 6: Disney On Ice, Simmons Bank Arena
- May 5: 501 Day, Citywide Celebration
- May 11 – May 20: *Crimes of the Heart*, Argenta Community Theater
- May 19: Third Friday Art Walk, Argenta Arts District
- May 20: Brooks and Dunn, Simmons Bank Arena
- May 27: Yadaloo Music and Arts Festival, North Little Rock Riverfront Park
- May: The Pulaski County Fair, North Little Rock Riverfront Park. 



Funland, Burns Park

Community Gardens



Rodney Ford, garden manager at The Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's "Garden of Eating," celebrating a cauliflower harvest!



Anna Sawyer, garden program coordinator, working with students at the Pike View Early Childhood Center Garden.




Marcie Finney, garden manager at the Idlewild Community Garden, watering summer crops while talking with a neighbor.

It's that time of the year again! The North Little Rock Community Garden Program is now accepting fall funding applications through June 15, 2023. The City of North Little Rock's Community Garden Program, under the Department of Neighborhood Services, accepts spring and fall funding proposals for community garden initiatives and urban agriculture projects within North Little Rock city limits. Applications can be submitted at ANY POINT throughout the year, but will only be reviewed by the Garden Advisory Committee on June 15 and December 15.



The goal of the program is to improve constituent access to healthy, affordable and locally-grown food by increasing the amount of community gardens in our city. A community garden can be defined as a piece of land gardened and cared for by a collective group, including non-profits, community centers, faith-based organizations and schools.

Currently, the North Little Rock Community Garden Program supports 15 community gardens in neighborhoods across our city. The community garden application can be found on our city's website (www.nlr.ar.gov/communitygardens) or by scanning the QR code above. Contact North Little Rock Neighborhood Services for a paper copy at NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov or 501-791-8500. 




The 2021 WINNER of the Arkansas Community of the Year Award Sponsored by Engage Arkansas and the Arkansas Municipal League.

MLK Day of Service: *Little Free Pantry Project*

a partnership with EngageAR

The North Little Rock Community Gardens in partnership with Engage AR, St. Joseph Center, and Every Arkansan/AR Dream Center had over 200 volunteers, thousands of donated goods, and several news organizations present at their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service this year. Volunteers came from organizations all across Central Arkansas, including, but not limited to, the City of North Little Rock, Saint Joseph Center, Every Arkansan, Arkansas Dream Center, Engage AR, Home Depot, Be Mighty CALS, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, AmeriCorps, Clinton School of Public Service, Our House, Entergy, the North Little Rock School District, Oak Forest Garden, Pfeifer Camp, American Red Cross, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA - Preserving Pearls of North Pulaski), Upward Bound, Junior League, the North Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, Calm and Confidence and Kids Gardening. One of the projects was the painting of the Little Free Pantry. Numerous old newspaper containers were painted and distributed in various locations in the city:

- Pike View Early Childhood Center (441 McCain Blvd.)
- LISA Academy North Elementary (5410 Landers Rd.)
- Lindsey's BBQ & Hospitality House (207 Curtis Sykes Dr.)
- Family Service Agency (628 W Broadway St.)
- The Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (217 N Hazel St.)
- The St. Joseph Center of Arkansas – Little Free Library – (6800 Camp Robinson Rd.)
- Eighth Street Baptist Church (821 N Hickory St. – Adoption pending due to logistics)
- NLR Junior League (Location – TBD) 



North Little Rock Electric Fitness Center



The North Little Rock Electric Department is excited to announce the opening of their new fitness center. In conjunction with the City and the Electric Department's effort to promote workplace wellness, North Little Rock Electric Department has been working for some time on adding an on-site fitness facility for their employees. North Little Rock Electric would like to thank Mayor Hartwick for his continuous support and FIT2LIVE Director LaKaisha Shelby for helping coordinate this project. Special thanks to North Little Rock Electric's Chris Nicholas, Terrell Lewis, and Mike Allen.



North Little Rock Electric has contracted TRC to perform pole inspections starting February 2023.

They will be working throughout our service territory for several months and will have a “CONTRACTOR FOR NLRED” magnet on all their vehicles.

For more information, visit nlrelectric.com/contractors






ARKANSAS' FIRST MAKERSPACE

The Innovation Hub is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Arkansans by inspiring innovation and expanding opportunities. The Innovation Hub uses tools, skills, and expertise to inspire innovators and entrepreneurs who expand the range of educational and economic opportunities for themselves and their communities, in our state, and throughout the world.

The Innovation Hub has fostered community relationships with surrounding schools, businesses, and entrepreneurs. The Hub values its long-standing partnership with the City of North Little Rock and they have been able to offer scholarships, improve economic development and enhance our community with innovative products and solutions. Specifically, in 2022, the Hub's North Little Rock engagement includes:

- Serving 1,637 North Little Rock students with STEAM field trips
- Teaching 22 North Little Rock students through their summer camp program and providing scholarships for each individual
- Serving 75 North Little Rock adults through classes and workshops

- Engaging with 113 students through their Innovation Challenge in April of 2022
- Providing youth activities for 35 North Little Rock families during the Moments of Joy event
- Hosting the North Little Rock School District Principals meeting with North Little Rock Superintendent Dr. Greg Pilewski
- Participating in the North Little Rock Air Show by providing hands-on activities in the Kids Zone
- Forty members of the Innovation Hub live in North Little Rock. The Innovation Hub had a total of 205 members in 2022.
- Ten businesses in North Little Rock are employing Skills to Launch graduates such as Halbert Pipe & Steel, Arkansas Tool & Dye, Amazon, DeWafelbakkers, Doyne Construction, Great Dane Trailers, Kirby Heat & Air, Caterpillar, Hall Tank, and The Greens at the Rock.
- Make48, a nationally recognized competition, hosted one of its "city events" at The Innovation Hub bringing national sponsors such as Air Gas, Shop Bot, and Matterhackers to its North Little Rock venue. 

Check out our NLR LIBRARIES



1000 Books Before Kindergarten

We are so proud of Cameron, Lily, and McKenna! They are making great progress in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program! Cameron and Lily have each read 200 books so far! Laman Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a fun, exciting, and free way to start your child on the path to success! Any child ages birth to five years can participate!



Card and Gift Wrapping

Throughout the holiday season the Laman Makerspace offered free gift wrapping and card making supplies for the community to use.



Homeschool STEAM Explorers

Homeschoolers in grades K-6 are invited to explore the world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) through engaging books, videos, and hands-on activities. Reese (pictured above) shares his findings after cultivating bacteria from swabs he took around Laman Library.



Quilting Class

The Laman Makerspace Quilting and other craft classes continue to be a big hit. These free classes happen regularly. Check out the calendar at NLRlibrary.org.

Local Author Mrs. Phyllis Hodges



Local author and North Little Rock business owner Mrs. Phyllis Hodges recently presented each North Little Rock City Council member an autographed hardback copy of her book “Eight Years of Unforgettable History,” an American History, current history, Arkansas history, and African American history book, all in one. Mrs. Hodges has also penned, “Girl Power,” her latest publication that is a motivational book for women of all ages. Both books are now available in the North Little Rock Welcome Center located in the North Little Rock Convention and Visitors Center at 600 Main Street. These two books can also be purchased at a variety of local venues. Both books have been endorsed by numerous school superintendents and mayors across the state and are being placed in school media centers in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Jacksonville, Lonoke, El Dorado and also in the Pulaski County School District.

North Little Rock Contact Information

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City Clerk/Treasurer	Diane Whitbey	501-975-8617	dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov
City Attorney	Amy Fields	501-975-3755	nlrlegal@nlr.ar.gov
Judge (Traffic)	Judge Randy Morley	501-791-8562	kathy.davis@nlrpolic.org
Judge (Criminal/Civil)	Judge Paula Juels Jones	501-791-8559	janet.hill@nlrpolic.org
Chief of Staff	Mike Davis	501-975-8601	mdavis@nlr.ar.gov
City Council			
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Ward 1 Council Member	Debi Ross	501-753-0733	dross@nlr.ar.gov
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Ward 2 Council Member	Maurice Taylor	501-690-6444	mtaylor@nlr.ar.gov
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Ward 3 Council Member	Ron Harris	501-758-2877	ronharris@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Vince Insalaco III	501-749-5344	vinsalaco@nlr.ar.gov
Ward 4 Council Member	Charlie Hight	501-944-0670	chight@nlr.ar.gov
Departments			
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Animal Control	Adam Tindall	501-791-8577	animalservices@nlr.ar.gov
Code Enforcement	Felecia McHenry	501-791-8581	codedirector@nlr.ar.gov
Communications	Shara Brazear	501-975-8833	sbrazear@nlr.ar.gov
Community Development	Bailey Noland	501-340-5342	bnoland@nlr.ar.gov
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Karen Trevino	501-404-0139	karen@northlittlerock.org
Economic Development	Robert Birch	501-516-0839	rbirch@nlr.ar.gov
Economic Development	Colleen Bailey	501-247-1852	cbailey@nlr.ar.gov
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Fire	Gerald Tucker	501-340-5385	nlrfd@nlr.ar.gov
Fit2Live	LaKaisha Shelby	501-975-8628	lshelby@nlr.ar.gov
Health	Lucille Rose	501-791-8551	lucille.rose@arkansas.gov
History Commission	Sandra Taylor-Smith	501-371-0755	nlrhistory@comcast.net
Human Resources	Betty Anderson	501-975-8855	banderson@nlr.ar.gov
Laman Library	Crystal Gates	501-758-1720	crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org
Mayor's Youth Council	Jan Scholl	501-951-0866	nlrmc22@aol.com
Neighborhood Services & Community Gardens	Dan Scott	501-791-8500	nlrneighborhoodserv@nlr.ar.gov
Parks & Recreation	Steve Shields	501-791-8538	parksandrec@nlr.ar.gov
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