



# NLR Neighborhood News

#NLRStrong

## **Disaster Preparedness, Working Together --**

On Friday, March 31, 2023 a tornado crossed the Arkansas River and roared into Burns Park at 2:30 in the afternoon. It ran for 5.6 miles in a northeasterly direction, affecting Amboy, Levy, Cobblestone, and Indian Hills neighborhoods. It was 400 yards wide and was at the top of the F3 scale with 200 miles per hour winds. The Fujita Scale lists F3 as **“SEVERE DAMAGE: Exterior walls and roofs blown off homes. Metal buildings collapsed or are severely damaged. Forests and farmland flattened.”** One person died and there were five major reported injuries. Hundreds of homes were affected with many sustaining major damage and some were destroyed.

### **Initial City Response**

An Emergency Operations Center was set up within fifteen minutes of the tornado entering Burns Park. Firefighters immediately began searching damaged houses for injured/trapped people. House searches were completed Friday evening, but searchers again looked for people in damaged homes on Saturday in daylight. Street, Parks, and Traffic Services began clearing streets of fallen trees and closing streets with downed power lines. Hundreds of electrical poles were destroyed and miles of lines were down, tangled, or missing. 15,000 houses were without power. The Police Department fully mobilized, with all officers working twelve hour shifts, patrolling the affected areas to keep outsiders from entering the storm damaged areas. A shelter for those affected by the storm was set up at the Community Center on Willow Street. The shelter also accepted pets.

### **Look at the Helpers**

Mr. Rogers from Mister Roger’s Neighborhood advised to always look at the helpers when a disaster, natural or man-made, occurs. Hundreds of citizens helped during the immediate aftermath of the storm. People walked out their front doors, or parked and walked in when they got off work, and pitched in. It was neighbors helping neighbors. People with chainsaws cut up trees blocking streets, and other neighbors dragged the debris to the curbs. Many streets were either completely or partially cleared by neighbors working together. Areas that were dangerous enough to warrant professional attention were left. Neighbors checked on each other. It is impossible to overestimate the assistance that neighbors provided to neighbors, both physically and emotionally, in the first hours after the disaster.

### **Curbs Told the Story**

Cleaning up debris and fallen trees in the neighborhoods came to a virtual standstill after the curb lines had been filled up. There was no place left to drag stuff. Fortunately the City has had a contract for several years with a disaster response company, Crowder-Gulf. Sunday they came in and started assessing damage and debris, and by the middle of the week they started hauling out

Continued on page 2.

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## **Tornado, continued from page 1.**

about 5000 cubic yards of debris daily. Debris was hauled to Burns Park parking lots to be stored until it could be disposed of properly. Burns Park was closed, in part, for safety reasons because these huge trucks and trailers were operating there. Once again volunteers and residents were able to fill curb lines with more wreckage. A drop off site for debris was also established for residents at the Burns Park Hospitality House parking lot.

### **Volunteers Flooded In**

It seemed like every major denomination had out-of-state teams of volunteers that showed up to help. Chainsaw teams worked tirelessly helping residents clear downed trees and tarp damaged roofs. The Police Department had other agencies sending officers to help with patrolling the affected area. Electric Department linemen from other agencies and states replaced broken and missing poles and lines at an amazing rate. Local companies came out in droves, helping residents, feeding residents first responders and volunteers, and donating food and cleaning supplies. A volunteer check-in site and supply pick-up site was established at 1300 Pike Avenue. Code Enforcement staffed that site, unloading, sorting and reloading donated materials to help North Little Rock residents. The Central Arkansas Development Council gave out motel vouchers. Food pantries delivered food to residents who did not have transportation. Other agencies helped with recovering identification documents and legal questions. Through it all, the Emergency Operations Center tried to coordinate recovery efforts and get needed information out to our neighbors.

### **What About the 95% of the City Not Affected?**

The first Monday following the storm, city government was open for business. Trash got picked up on the regular schedule, building permits and business licenses were issued, and police and fire calls were answered. The City was providing disaster relief and regular city services at the same time.

### **Where Are We Now?**

FEMA and Salvation Army along with other organizations are set up in the Community Center at 2700 Willow Street in the community rooms there. Anyone affected by the storm is encouraged to go there as soon as possible and start the process to help with recovery. For Red Cross assistance call 1-800-733-2767 (1-800-RED-CROSS) Contact your insurance agent about damage and file claims with them.

We know there are a lot of clean up issues. From how root balls of fallen trees will be pulled to the curbs to fixing the ruts caused when electrical lines and poles were replaced, we have our work cut out for us as a city.

As you start to rebuild or repair, beware of scam artists masquerading as contractors. Make sure any contractor you hire has a city business license, is registered with the state, and is licensed and bonded. Call 911 and report any suspicious people aggressively pushing you to hire them for your repair needs. Take care of each other and watch out for each other. Together we truly are ***North Little Rock Strong.***

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**Remaining 2023  
City of North Little Rock  
Holiday Schedule**

**Memorial Day - May 29**

**Independence Day - July 4**

**Labor Day - September 4**

**Veterans Day - November 11  
(observed on November 10)**

**Thanksgiving - November 23 & 24**

**Christmas - December 24 & 25  
(observed on December 25 & 26)**

**For questions regarding Sanitation  
and the holiday schedule  
call 501-371-8340.**

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**2023  
Recycling Weeks**

**May 7 & 21**

**June 4 & 18**

**July 2, 16 & 30**

**August 13 & 27**

**September 10 & 24**

**October 8 & 22**

**November 5 & 19**

**December 3, 17 & 31**

Put your bins to the curb by 7:00 a.m. the day of your regular household garbage pick up. Put them away by 8:00 a.m. the next day.

**Recycling Questions?  
Call Waste Management  
at (501) 565-0191.**

**For recycling holiday schedule  
call 501-565-0191.**

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**North Little Rock Commission Meetings**

**Airport Commission**

3rd Thursday, 12:00 pm  
120 Main Street, Room A  
City Services Building

**Central Arkansas Water  
Commission**

2nd Thursday, 2:00 pm  
CAW Office  
3rd Floor Board Room  
221 East Capitol Avenue  
Little Rock, AR

\*Meetings are currently closed to in-person attendance. CAW will provide a means for the public to attend online.

**City Beautiful Commission**

3rd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.  
Neighborhood Services Office  
3427 North Magnolia Street

**City Council**

2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00 p.m.  
NLR City Hall  
300 Main Street

**History Commission**

2nd Tuesday, 5:30 pm  
506 Main Street

**Historic District Commission**

2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm  
506 Main Street

**Parks & Recreation  
Commission**

3rd Monday, 5:00 pm  
2700 Willow Street

**Planning Commission**

2nd Tuesday, 4:00 pm  
300 Main Street

**Planning Commission**

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Last Thursday of each month,  
1:30 p.m. / City Services Bldg.  
120 Main St., 2nd floor, west end

**Senior Citizen Commission**

Every 4th Monday, 3:00 p.m.  
401 West Pershing

**Thomas Cemetery Committee**

1st Monday, 6:15 pm  
Levy Baptist Church,  
3501 Pike Ave.

**Waste Water Treatment  
Commission**

2nd Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.  
Waste Water Administration  
Building, Conference Room  
7400 Baucum Pike, Gate 1

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# Questions? Contact the Following

All dates are evening meetings unless otherwise noted.



## **Amboy Crime Watch**

3rd Monday, 6:30  
Burns Park Hospitality House,  
Military Drive & Joe Poch Road  
Paula Lively, 501-350-7649  
pkele@aol.com

## **Amboy Neighborhood Assn.**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30  
Burns Park Hospitality House  
Military Drive & Joe Poch Rd.  
Angelica Barnard, 501-297-8720  
Amboynanews@aol.com

## **Argenta Neighborhood Boosters**

Every 3rd Thursday, 6:00  
Utilizing Zoom for meetings  
Occasionally meeting in person.  
John Pflasterer, 501-553-8671  
argentaboosters@yahoo.com

## **Baring Cross Neighborhood Assn.**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00  
ACTS Church  
13th & Franklin Sts.  
Harlan Hunter, 501-541-1591

## **Cobblestone Crime Watch**

2nd Tuesday, 6:30  
January, April, July & October  
Suni Mc Clelland, 501-920-5330  
sunimcclellad@gmail.com

## **Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation**

Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:30  
1400 Pine Street  
Belinda Burney, 501-376-8144

## **Dixie Addition Community Development Corporation**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00  
914 "H" Street  
Earnest Franklin, 501-563-5400

## **East Argenta Annex Neighborhood Watch Assn**

Every 3rd Wednesday, 6:00  
Sherman Park Rec. Center  
624 North Beech Street

## **Glenview Neighborhood**

**Association Council**  
Every 1st Tuesday, 7:00  
Glenview Rec. Ctr, 4800 E 19th St.  
Tim Deloney, 501-945-8820

## **HOLT Neighborhood Assn.**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30  
Gardner Memorial United Methodist  
Joy Cameron, 501-374-9520

## **Keep North Little Rock Beautiful**

Every 2nd Monday, 6:00  
Rockwater Marina Clubhouse  
Randy Naylor, 501-350-8775 or  
Lisa Smith, 501-791-2568;  
KNLRB@aol.com  
or www.Facebook.com/KNLRB

## **Meadow Park Neighborhood Assn.**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00  
Michael Davis, 501-442-0744

## **Melrose Outreach**

Every 3rd Wednesday, 7:00  
Melrose Grocery, 807 Willow St.  
Tammy Small, 501-541-3703  
TammyRSmall@att.net

## **Military Heights Outreach Assn.**

Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30  
North Little Rock Community Center  
Juanita Henderson, 678-549-6670  
Karen Alford, 501-681-5233

## **NAACP**

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00  
P.O. Box 5571  
North Little Rock, AR 72119  
Deborah F. Rhodes, Ph: 501-819-3890  
nlrnaacp201@yahoo.com

## **Neighbors United for Levy**

Every 1st Monday, 6:30  
No. Heights Recreation, 4801 Allen  
Doug McDowall, 501-758-1668

## **North Little Rock Landlords Assn**

Every 3rd Monday, 7:00  
NLR Community Ctr, 2700 Willow St.  
Gail Blucker, 501-835-6679

## **Park Hill Neighborhood**

John Gregan, 501-758-7159  
johngregan@att.net

## **Ridge Road Village Neighborhood Watch**

Every 4th Thursday, 5:00  
4748 Ridge Rd, Phone : 501-771-7500

## **Rose City Neighborhood Assn.**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00  
Rose City Recreation Center  
400 Rose Lane  
Ken Abel, 501-791-8500, lv message  
Nlrrosecityneighborhood@gmail.com

## **Scenic Hill Neighborhood Assn.**

2nd Thursday, 7:00 in  
January, March, June & September  
Randy Naylor, 501-350-8775

## **Sertoma Club of NLR**

Every Wednesday, 12:00 noon  
US Pizza on Warden Road

## **Sherman Park Neighborhood**

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00  
8th St. Baptist Church  
Corner of Hickory & SA Jones Sts.  
Artis Boykin, 501-766-0200

## **Stone Links Neighborhood Assn.**

Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:00  
Stone Links Clubhouse  
Marie Hollowell, 404-259-2957

## **Willow Beach Estates Property Owners Assn**

2nd Tuesday in March & October, 6:30  
Church at Willow Beach  
John Santaro, 501-607-1755



**City of North Little Rock  
City Hall 300 Main Street**

**Elected Officials**

Mayor Terry Hartwick 975-8601  
City Clerk, Diane Whitbey 975-8617  
City Attorney, Amy Fields 975-3755

**Council Members**

**Ward 1**

Debi Ross 753-0733  
Nathan Hamilton 952-7679

**Ward 2**

Linda Robinson 945-8820  
Maurice Taylor 690-6444

**Ward 3**

Steve Baxter 804-0928  
Ron Harris 758-2877

**Ward 4**

Charlie Hight 944-0670  
Vince Insalaco III 951-0786

**NLR Neighborhood News**

Published 6 times annually

**Published by -**

Neighborhood Services  
P.O. Box 5757 / Zip: 72119-5757  
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North Little Rock, AR 72116

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Office Hours-  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Comments? We would like to hear from you. If you have neighborhood meetings or activities to be placed in the newsletter, please mail, fax, email or call the information to us. Are you reading someone else's copy? If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, contact our office.

North Little Rock Neighborhood News is a bi-monthly publication. Please note the following deadlines for information to be published:

Issue	Deadline Date
July/Aug	June 1
Sept/Oct	August 1
Nov/Dec	October 1

Jan/Feb 2024	December 1
Mar/Apr 2024	February 1



**Join the Great  
NLR Cleanup  
Saturday, May 6th  
8:30 am - 11:00 am**

Following the cleanup at 12 noon will be a celebration lunch with door prizes at 4500 Lakeshore Drive.

To register as a group or individual go to [KNLRB.org](http://KNLRB.org).

For further information contact Randy Naylor at [@https://www.facebook.com/KNLRB](https://www.facebook.com/KNLRB).



**“Little Free Pantries” are available throughout North Little Rock for anyone who may be experiencing food insecurity and is in need of some assistance. If you know someone who may need help please refer them to one of the following:**

**St. Luke’s Episcopal Church - 4106 JFK Blvd.**

**Ridge Road Elementary - 4601 Ridge Road**

**Indian Hills Elementary - 6800 Indian Hills Drive**

**NLR High School - behind the old football field visitor bleachers**

**LISA Academy North Elementary - 5410 Landers Road**

**AKA Preserving Pearls of N. Pulaski - 207 Curtis Sykes, next to Lindsey’s BBQ**

**Levy Baptist Church - 3501 Pike Avenue**

**Jr. League of NLR - 120- Main Street**

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist - 217 North Hazel Street**

**Refuge Church Food Pantry - 201 West 4th Street**

**NLR Animal Shelter (For Pets) - #1 Championship Drive**

**If you know of additional locations within North Little Rock where “Little Free Pantries” are located please contact NLR Neighborhood Services at [NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov](mailto:NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov).**

# Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC)

Witt Stephens Jr Central AR Nature Center--

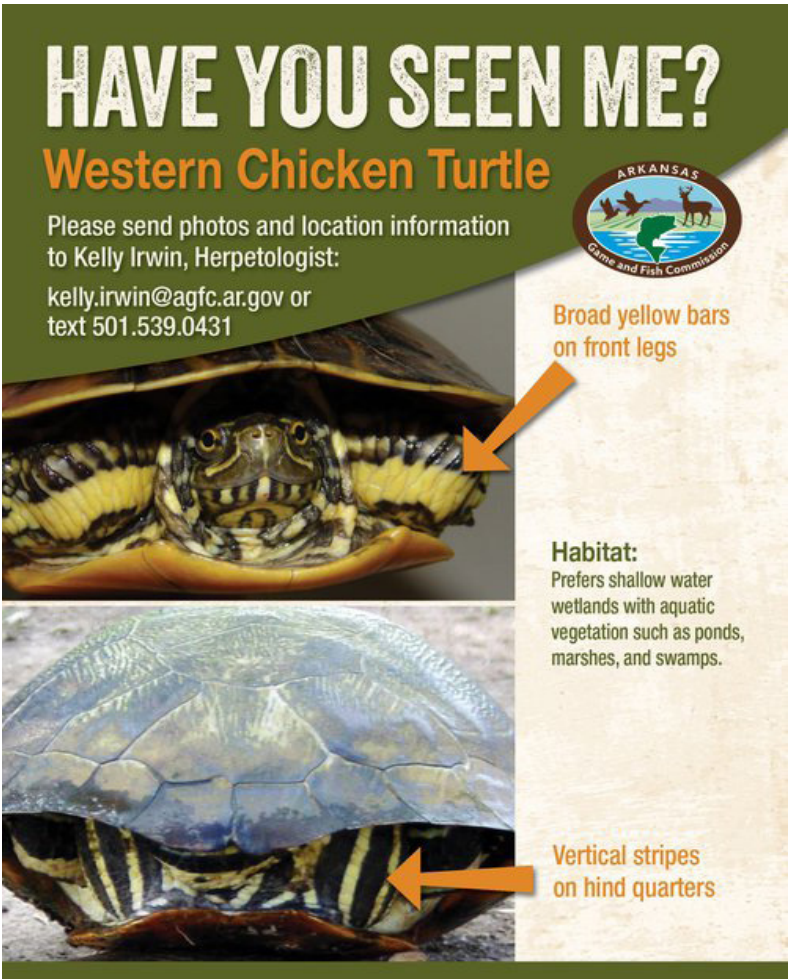
LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is again asking for help from hikers, hunters, anglers and herpetology enthusiasts to be on the lookout for a rare species found in The Natural State. Kelly Irwin, the AGFC's herpetologist, says sightings of the species anywhere in the state will help biologists conduct population surveys to determine the status of this species in Arkansas.

Chicken turtles are found in marshes, swamps and beaver ponds, primarily central, eastern and southern Arkansas. They are roughly the same size and color as red-eared sliders and river cooters, two other semi-aquatic turtles which are more common. Mature chicken turtles will have oval shells from 4 to 6 inches long with brown-olive plates featuring a faint yellow netlike pattern.

“To the untrained eye, they’re easily confused for sliders,” Irwin said. “But it’s pretty easy to determine if you have a chicken turtle. Look at the hind quarters. If the yellow stripes are straight up and down, it’s a chicken turtle.”

Irwin says the AGFC has been involved in a multi-year survey process to find and record as many locations and populations of this species as possible. Chicken turtles are listed in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need, a status indicating downward population trends or too little data to make determinations on the overall health of the species. Successful surveys of the species can help researchers with not only information on this species, but also help focus conservation efforts in the future.

Text or email any images and location details of turtles with the vertical yellow stripes (AKA: “striped pants”) to Irwin at: 501.539.0431 or [kelly.irwin@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:kelly.irwin@agfc.ar.gov).




**HAVE YOU SEEN ME?**  
**Western Chicken Turtle**

Please send photos and location information to Kelly Irwin, Herpetologist:  
[kelly.irwin@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:kelly.irwin@agfc.ar.gov) or text 501.539.0431

**Broad yellow bars on front legs**

**Habitat:**  
Prefers shallow water wetlands with aquatic vegetation such as ponds, marshes, and swamps.

**Vertical stripes on hind quarters**



Please notify Neighborhood Services of any address change. Bulk rate mail will not be forwarded.



NLR Neighborhood News  
Office of Neighborhood Services  
P.O. Box 5757  
North Little Rock, AR 72119-5757

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Permit No. 588

May/June 2023

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