

Coming
April 8, 2024

Volume 29- Number 2

March/April 2024

NLR Neighborhood News

#NLRStrong

Advice for the Totality Is Here!

On Monday April 8, 2024 starting at approximately 12:30 in the afternoon a total solar eclipse will begin in North Little Rock. The totality, that is when the Sun is completely covered, will be from 1:51 to 1:54, with the eclipse ending at about 3:30 that afternoon.

Special glasses will be needed to watch the partial eclipse before and after totality. Do not look at the Sun without special eclipse viewing glasses. No glasses will be needed during totality when the Sun is completely covered by the Moon. A limited number of glasses will be available for purchase at the North Little Rock Welcome Center located at 600 Main Street, Suite 120.

Large crowds are expected to come to North Little Rock to view the totality. Expect interstate highways and state highways to be congested and perhaps at a standstill shortly before, during, and for a time after the eclipse.

We suggest you prepare the Wednesday before the eclipse by making sure your gas tank is full, you have all the prescriptions you will need through Tuesday, April 9th, and have done any shopping you need to tide you over until the eclipse is finished. Traffic will probably continue to be an issue for at least several hours after the end of the event. If you do go somewhere to view it, plan on staying there for some time when it is over.

Historically in other cultures a solar eclipse was believed to be the result of an animal or god eating the Sun and people would bang on drums and make loud noises to frighten the culprit away. Some believed the Sun was eaten by an immortal severed head that would eat the Sun but would have the

Sun reappear because the demon had no throat. Some thought their Sun God was displaying his wrath by turning his back on the Earth. Animals thought to be eating the Sun varied from dragons to black squirrels. One group thought a mouse would chew through the ropes that had captured the Sun allowing the Sun to escape from its trap. Some believed the eclipse was caused by human anger and fighting that had spread to the Moon and Sun and only demonstrations of peace would convince the heavenly objects to stop their brawl.

Today, of course, we know that the solar eclipse is caused when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth casting a shadow on, in this case, Arkansas. Still, demonstrations of peace, especially in the traffic jams immediately following the eclipse, can't hurt. If you are out in the eclipse traffic, please drive safely and courteously.

For additional information regarding eclipse safety, visit our eclipse information guide at <http://nlr.ar.gov/eclipse-2024>.

For more information on the different types of glasses available go to: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters>.



Why Are Urgent Care Facilities Good For North Little Rock?



The City of North Little Rock has three hospitals: Baptist Medical Center at Springhill; Arkansas Surgical Hospital on Northshore Drive; and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Roots. We have another five hospitals in Pulaski County. Is there a need for urgent care facilities in our city as well? If so, how can urgent care facilities help provide health care services?

The wait times for emergency room visits are long and tiresome. Patients arriving by ambulance to an emergency room regularly wait for two to six hours in the ambulance before being admitted into the emergency room to be seen by a physician. Then, it can take that long or longer for a hospital bed if admitted to the hospital. Urgent care facilities can reduce wait times by treating non-life threatening emergencies outside of a hospital. Seeing an urgent care facility doctor for seasonal allergies or a badly sprained ankle can make sense because you are not at the bottom of the triage list behind strokes, heart attacks, pneumonia cases, etc.

There are also times when scheduling an appointment with your primary care physician can be difficult. Sometimes urgent care facilities are faster since they see walk-in patients. Urgent care

facilities are also usually significantly cheaper than emergency room visits. Cuts, bites, fever, flu symptoms, and allergic reactions are often more quickly and economically treated at an urgent care facility. More extreme health conditions like strokes, heart attacks, fractures, and serious accidents are better suited to emergency room treatment. Because hospitals treat the more serious issues, they have staff and equipment (and the associated costs) that urgent care facilities do not have. In fact, a recent study estimated that the costs of nine of the most common reasons people visit emergency rooms (that were not life threatening) were three to four times higher than the costs of the same visits to urgent care centers. Of course, if you are experiencing symptoms that could be severe enough to result in death or harm to a physical organ, you should get to an emergency room immediately.

Check with your health insurance company to see if urgent care facilities are covered “in network”. While exploring alternatives to emergency rooms with possible long waits and higher costs, remember that our North Little Rock Health Department at 2800 N. Willow Street can provide many services. That service list includes: breast and cervical cancer screening; children and adolescents vaccinations; WIC programs for proper nutrition for pregnant and postpartum women and their children; pregnancy testing; COVID testing; tobacco counseling; testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; tuberculosis testing and treatment; and newborn screening tests. Appropriate use of all the facilities available can help us access timely and affordable health-care.

We look forward to the opening of the new Rose City Health Clinic at the corner of East Broadway Street and Baucum Pike this year.

Election Day - March 5, 2024

Voting For The
Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan
Judicial General Ballot
is Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Voting hours are:
7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

To find your polling location go to the
Pulaski County Circuit Clerk webpage
at pulaskiclerk.com/elections,
email: PCEC@votepulaski.net
or call 501-340-8383.

*Be sure you cast your vote,
let your voice be heard!!!*



March 10th

Set Your Clocks Ahead
One (1) Hour Before Going
To Bed Saturday Night.



Spring is around
the corner.
Now is the time to
be disaster prepared.

North Little Rock Commission Meetings

Airport Commission

3rd Thursday, 12:00 pm
City Services Bldg.
700 West 29th Street

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

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Last Thursday of each month,
1:30 p.m. / City Services Bldg.
700 West 29th Street

Senior Citizen Commission

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

Thomas Cemetery Committee

3rd 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

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.
Samantha Floyd, 501-231-7240
Amboynanews@aol.com

Argenta Neighborhood Boosters

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

Call for meeting information
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
Rowney Torrance, 501-343-1960

Glenview Neighborhood Association Council

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00
Glenview Rec. Ctr, 4800 E 19th St.
Linda Robinson, 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.

Every 2nd Wednesday, 7:00
Meadow Park Elem. Cafeteria
801 East Bethany
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.

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 Santoro, 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

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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
May/June	April 1
July/August	June 1
Sept/October	August 1
Nov/Dec	October 1

**2024 Remaining
North Little Rock
Holiday Schedule**

Memorial Day

May 27

**Sanitation runs one
day late all week.**

Juneteenth Day

June 19

**Sanitation schedule for
Thursday & Friday
routes run one day late.**

Independence Day

July 4

**Sanitation schedule for
Friday routes run one day late.**

Labor Day

September 2

**Sanitation runs one
day late all week.**

Veterans Day

November 11

**Sanitation runs
regular schedule.**

Thanksgiving

November 28 & 29

**Sanitation schedule for
Thursday & Friday routes
run one day late.**

Christmas

December 24 & 25

**Sanitation schedule for
Thursday & Friday
routes run one day late.**

Raptors Continued from page 8.

er than a crow and are a streaked, tawny-brown color. Watch for light spots on their upper wing and dark spots at the bend of the wing on the underside.

Crows, jays and other birds are known to mob or dive bomb birds of prey such as owls and hawks. The feisty short-eared owl is prone to take off after their assailants so they have to flee for their lives.

Be on the lookout for these charismatic raptors while driving along agricultural fields this winter. Or, check out hotspots for both raptors on eBird.org. Grab a pair of binoculars, and plan a visit to Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Bald Knob NWR, Frog Bayou Wildlife Management Area, Stone Prairie WMA, Fort Chaffee WMA or Roth Prairie Natural Area. Fish hatcheries, such as Charlie Craig or Joe Hogan state fish hatcheries, can be wonderful birding locations as well.

Start a list of birds spotted in your backyard or while on outdoor excursions – and participate in Wings Over Arkansas, AGFC's birding rewards program. Earn decorative pins and certificates along the way. Visit www.agfc.com/education/wings-over-arkansas to learn more.

2024 Remaining Recycling Weeks

March 10 & 24

April 7 & 21

May 5 & 19

June 2, 16 & 30

July 14 & 28

August 11 & 25

September 8 & 22

October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17

December 1, 15 & 29

**For Recycling Holiday Pick Up Questions?
Call Waste Management at (501) 565-0191.**

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC)
Witt Stephens Jr Central AR Nature Center--



Raptors Offer Exciting Winter Wildlife-Watching Opportunities

By Kirsten Bartlow, AGFC Watchable Wildlife Program Coordinator

Waterfowl dominate a person's view on any drive through the Delta in winter – blanketing an agricultural field, bobbing in shallow water or traveling high in the sky in formation. But sharp eyes may also spot two other migratory birds taking advantage of Arkansas's open country.

The northern harrier and the short-eared owl arrive in Arkansas during fall and depart each spring. While one is a hawk and the other an owl, they are sometimes mistaken for one another. Both birds regularly hunt the same areas and fly close to the ground in pursuit of prey. While in their breeding territory in the northern U.S. and Canada, both also nest on the ground.

Distinct even from a distance, northern harriers hunt from the wing and fly stealth missions low over grasslands and fields. With long wings and long tails, males are grayish above with black wingtips while females are brown above and pale below with brown streaking. Both sexes sport a white patch on their rump – an obvious field mark while in flight. Watch for outstretched wings held in a V-shape, similar to a turkey vulture, as they teeter side to side in flight.

An up-close look reveals an owlish face with stiff feathers to funnel sounds to their ears. Unlike other hawks, northern harriers use their sense of hearing

along with sight to capture prey, small mammals and birds like cotton rats, house mice, harvest mice, rice rats, shrews, meadowlarks, cardinals, blackbirds and sparrows. They also are capable of taking bigger prey like rabbits and ducks.

Watch for these graceful raptors in eastern Arkansas, along the Arkansas River Valley and a bit less regularly in the western Ozarks.

Short-eared owls, unlike most owls in The Natural State, regularly hunt in the middle of the day. Unlike other Arkansas owls, they roost on the ground as well as on fence posts and low brush. They are most common in the open croplands and fields of Arkansas's Grand Prairie. They're often spotted along with large flocks of blackbirds that congregate in these areas.

When vole populations erupt in an area, short-eared owls arrive on the scene to dine upon the plump, little rodent. Their dissected owl pellets also often show the bones of grackles, red-winged blackbirds, meadowlarks and starlings.

Look for short-eared owls flying over fields in search of prey. While sometimes confused with the northern harrier, they have a different flight pattern – a bit like a large, tipsy moth. They are slightly small-

See Raptors on page 5.

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



NLR Neighborhood News
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North Little Rock, AR 72119-5757

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