



Newsletter 2026 1Q

Save the Date! Saturday, May 16, 1:00-4:00!

The Old Mill and T.R. Pugh Memorial Park will celebrate 50 years as a North Little Rock Park on **Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** (the Old Mill, which was dedicated on August 6, 1933, was given to NLR by the former Justin Matthews Company on May 24, 1976). We are currently in the planning stages but anticipate an open house with refreshments, giveaways, tours, and talks about the Old Mill, its gardens, and other topics throughout the day. A schedule of events will be publicized.

We will need volunteers to help with the celebration and will offer more details in the near future. Please stay tuned....

Do you have Old Mill pictures from the 1970s?

If you have pictures of the Old Mill from the 1960s and 1970s, we would love to see them and display them for the May celebration! We've come a long way since 1976 and want to celebrate that progress. Please share your pictures on the Old Mill Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/theoldmillnlr/> or send to Valerie Boyce at valerie.boyce61@gmail.com (photographs will also be saved in the History Commission's archives). Let us know if there is a story behind the picture!

Board of Directors' Meetings:

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Old Mill will meet at the following dates in 2026:

Friday, March 6 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 12 10:00 a.m.

Friday, September 11 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 3 4:00 p.m. (to include election of officers)

The meetings will be held at the NLR Tourism Offices, 600 Main Street in Argenta. All FOM members are welcome to attend.

Tourist Information Signs at the Old Mill:

Don't forget the small signs at the Old Mill with a QR code that can be scanned with a smartphone, which allow access to the Old Mill webpage and all the information on the Old Mill. This allows visitors to explore the art of the Old Mill, its history, and other facts to enhance their visit. Look for the signs near each entrance, on the restroom building/deck, and at the amphitheater.



Old Mill Tours:

In 2025, FOM and NLR Tourism conducted more than a dozen guided tours of the Old Mill. These have been for out-of-state groups (such as Road Scholar and North American Travel Journalists Association) as well as in-state groups (such as Central Ark. Rose Society) and range from 5-6 persons to 30-35.

NLR Tourism offers guided tours of the Old Mill for groups of 25 or more people who are lodging overnight in a North Little Rock hotel or RV park, and with advance tour reservations. These tours are conducted by trained volunteers from NLR Tourism and FOM. For smaller groups, FOM makes every effort to offer guided tours as guides are available. If you know of a group that would like a guided tour of the Old Mill, please contact NLR Tourism by calling 501-758-1424 or emailing info@northlittlerock.org.

If you would like to help doing guided tours, please contact Valerie Boyce at valerie.boyce61@gmail.com. We will provide training materials and do one-on-one training. As Tourism receives requests for tours, we work with volunteers to see who is available, and usually try to have at least two volunteers per tour. It's truly an honor to be able to show off the Old Mill and educate visitors about its history.

Donations to FOM:

Would you (or someone you know) like to donate to FOM to assist in the upkeep of the Old Mill? Any amount is appreciated! Funds are used on an ongoing basis to purchase plants and gardening supplies to keep the landscaping at the Old Mill in top shape (with help from the Old Mill Master Gardeners and NLR Parks & Recreation); funds may also be used for special projects such as repairs, maintenance, new equipment, etc. as needs arise.

Tax-exempt donations can be made three ways:

- (1) by mailing a check (payable to Friends of the Old Mill) to Friends of the Old Mill, 506 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114;
- (2) via PayPal (with a credit card) at the FOM website (<https://nlr.ar.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/old-mill/friends-of-the-old-mill/>); or
- (3) via PayPal (with a credit card) using the QR Code on the sign at the entry gates of the Old Mill.

Photographs from February 20, 2026:





On the street in front of the Old Mill were cars from Texas, Kansas, California, Utah, and Arkansas!

Your FOM Officers:

Valerie Boyce, President
Deeana Montgomery, Vice-President
Janet Beck, Secretary
Joe Detchemendy, Treasurer

Suggestions:

If you have any suggestions for how to make the Old Mill even better, please email Valerie Boyce at valerie.boyce61@gmail.com .

Save the Date:

The Old Mill will be 100 years old in 2033 – save the date: Saturday, **August 6, 2033**, for a centennial celebration. More information to come....