

**Plan****Prepare****Recover**

NLR Neighborhood News

#NLRStrong

Before the Disaster Hits

North Little Rock has experienced a kind of boom and bust when facing disasters over the past six years. 2019's flood was a disaster of historic proportions. In 2023 the tornado left an unbroken trail of damage from Little Rock to Jacksonville including several of our neighborhoods. Later that year, in June, straight line winds damage was spread over different parts of the city. Then, in 2024, both the solar eclipse and the emergence of two different species of cicadas were expected to have significant impacts, neither of which happened. Still, even the non-disasters offered the opportunity to plan and prepare, which may help when the next real disaster strikes.

Here are some steps to take before disaster strikes to make your recovery from a disaster much easier.

- 1.) Take pictures of your house, both inside and out. Photos will make filing an insurance claim much easier. It will help you remember what items were lost and show your insurance company that you actually had the items you are claiming. Make sure you keep the photos somewhere safe other than in your house.
- 2.) List all serial numbers on electronics, appliances and firearms. This way your items can be returned to you if authorities find them during an investigation. Keep a list of your possessions with the photos you took in step number one above.
- 3.) Keep insurance records and important documents in a fire-resistant and water resistant box or envelope. It is significantly easier to save birth certificates, passports, insurance and banking documents than to replace them. Be prepared to take that box/envelope with you in case you need to evacuate.
- 4.) Make sure you have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home. Make sure the batteries are not low.
- 5.) Renters insurance is a good investment if you do not own the home you are living in.
- 6.) Regularly review your homeowners or renters insurance to make sure it still meets your needs. Pay attention to details like paying for tree removal. Following the 2023 tornado many owners were surprised to find that they had to pay out of pocket to have downed trees removed which cost them several thousand dollars.
- 7.) Keep a list of important contact numbers for family and friends.
- 8.) Remember that texting during a disaster may be more effective than trying to call. Make sure your important contacts know that as well.
- 9.) Plan ahead on where to meet if separated from family. Have a backup location in case the first is unreachable. Review you plan with your family regularly.
- 10.) Keep at least three days' worth of food and water on hand for each person in your household. Make sure you have a way to keep warm or cool if power is out. Have flashlights or other light sources in case of power outages.
- 11.) You should have a NOAA weather radio that is either battery, solar, or hand cranked and that receives AM/FM and Weather reports. Accurate information is key when surviving a disaster.
- 12.) When bad weather is predicted fill your vehicle up with gas. Gas pumps don't work without electricity and you may need to evacuate. Also remember that ATMs don't work without electricity. You may want to keep some cash on hand. It is suggested that lower denominations may be more useful during a disaster



The Root Connection

Edible Landscaping: Growing Flavor & Beauty in Zone 8

Transform your garden into a lush, edible oasis with the power of herbs! In Central Arkansas (Zone 8), you can enjoy a variety of hardy, flavorful plants that enhance your landscape while providing fresh ingredients for your kitchen. From fragrant rosemary hedges to vibrant thyme ground cover, and pollinator-friendly lavender to versatile chives, edible landscaping is both practical and beautiful.

Best Herbs for Zone 8 - top-performing herbs that thrive in our climate:

- **Rosemary** – A tough evergreen shrub that doubles as a fragrant hedge or border.
- **Lavender** – Attracts pollinators while adding beauty and relaxation to your garden.
- **Thyme** – A low-maintenance ground cover perfect for pathways or rock gardens.
- **Oregano** – A sprawling, drought-tolerant herb that adds flavor and texture.
- **Chives** – A fantastic edging plant with edible flowers and onion-like leaves.
- **Basil** – Ideal for container gardens and companion planting with tomatoes.
- **Mint** – Best kept in containers to prevent spreading, great for teas and cocktails.

Harvesting Tips for Maximum Flavor

- **Morning Harvesting** – Pick herbs in the early morning when their essential oils are most concentrated.
- **Regular Pruning** – Frequent snipping encourages new growth and prevents flowering.
- **Drying & Preserving** – Hang rosemary, oregano, and thyme to dry for year-round use; freeze basil and chives for fresh flavor anytime.

Creative Ways to Integrate Herbs into Your Landscape

- **Pathway Borders** – Use low-growing thyme or oregano to soften walkways.
- **Vertical Gardens** – Grow basil and mint in hanging baskets or wall planters.
- **Pollinator Patches** – Plant lavender and chives to attract beneficial bees and butterflies.
- **Mixed Flower Beds** – Blend rosemary and sage with ornamental flowers for a stunning and functional display.
- **Kitchen Door Pots** – Keep a container of your most-used culinary herbs near your door for quick access.

By incorporating these versatile herbs into your landscape, you'll enjoy a garden that is as practical as it is beautiful—full of fresh flavors, rich aromas, and thriving biodiversity.



Recipe

FRESH HERB GARDEN PESTO

CATEGORY: QUICK & EASY

PREP TIME: 5-10 MINS



ingredients

- ☐ 1 cup basil leaves
- ☐ ½ cup mix parsley or oregano
- ☐ ¼ cup chives, chopped
- ☐ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ☐ ¼ cup nuts (pine nuts, walnuts, or almonds)
- ☐ ½ teaspoon salt
- ☐ Juice of ½ a lemon
- ☐ ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated (or nutritional yeast for a vegan option)

directions

In a food processor or blender, combine basil, parsley/oregano, chives, garlic, and nuts. Pulse until finely chopped. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while blending until smooth. Add Parmesan, salt, and lemon juice; pulse to combine. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. If too thick, add a splash more olive oil or a bit of water.

notes

Serve immediately or store in a jar in the fridge for up to a week.

Planting Guide -

Vegetables to Plant

Asparagus	Eggplants	Cabbage
Sweet Corn	Tomatoes	Swiss Chard
Squash	Beans (snap,	Lettuce
Okra	Lima)	Radish
Peppers	Edamame	Beets
Cucumbers	Kohlrabi	Watermelon
Sweet Potatoes	Broccoli	Cantaloupe

The closer to the end of this list a vegetable is listed, the closer to the end of the month it should be planted.

Gardening Tips For April

Watch the Weather - Late frosts can still happen, so be ready to cover tender plants.

Water Wisely - As temperatures rise, increase watering but avoid over-saturation.

Companion Planting - Pair basil with tomatoes and marigolds to deter pests.

Mulch Now - Helps retain moisture and reduce weeds before summer heat kicks in.

North Little Rock Board & Commission Meetings

Advertising & Promotion Commission

Quarterly - 3rd Tuesday, 3:30 pm
600 Main Street, Suite 100

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

City Beautiful Commission

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

City Council

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

Civil Service Commission

2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
City Services, 700 W. 29th St.

Community Garden Manager

May 28 & June 25, 5:00- 6:30 pm
North Heights Com. Ctr.
Contact: 501-791-8500

History Commission

2nd Tuesday, 5:30 pm
506 Main Street

Historic District Commission

2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm
506 Main Street

Housing Authority Board of Commissions

1st Monday, 5:00 pm
4901 Fairway Avenue, Suite A

Library Commission

3rd Monday, 5:30 pm
Laman Library, 28th & Orange Sts.

MEMS Board

4th Tuesday, 7:30 pm
MEMS Admin Bldg.,
1121 W. 7th, Little Rock

Parks & Recreation Commission

3rd Monday, 5:00 pm
2700 Willow Street

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday, 4:00 pm
City Hall, 300 Main Street

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Last Thursday of each month,
1:30 p.m. / City Hall
300 Main Street

Residential Housing Facilities Board/Public Facilities Board

Meetings are held on an on-call basis. For more information call, 501-372-0110

Rock Region METRO

3rd Tuesday, 12 Noon
RockRegion METRO Bldg.
901 Maple 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.

Tree Board

Meets Quarterly
300 Main Street

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

Every 1st Thursday, 6:30
Burns Park Hospitality House,
Military Drive & Joe Poch Road
Paula Lively, 501-350-7649
pkele@aol.com

Amboy Neighborhood Assn.

Every 1st Thursday, 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
nlrhs2006@gmail.com
nerdgang@yahoo.com

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
Lorraine Chism, 501-519-5957
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

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 501-975-8601
City Clerk, Diane Whitbey 501-975-8617
City Attorney, Amy Fields 501-975-3755

Council Members

Ward 1

Debi Ross 501-753-0733
Nathan Hamilton 501-952-7679

Ward 2

Linda Robinson 501-945-8820
Nicole Hart 501-960-2461

Ward 3

Steve Baxter 501-804-0928
Ron Harris 501-758-2877

Ward 4

Scott Fowler 501-765-5868
Vince Insalaco III 501-951-0786

NLR Neighborhood News

Published 6 times annually

Published by -

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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
Jul/Aug 2025	June 1
Sep/Oct 2025	August 1
Nov/Dec 2025	October 1

Garden +Bee Day
Baring Cross
Community Garden
1300 Crutcher St.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**Last Saturday
of each month.**

**Remaining 2025
North Little Rock
Holiday Schedule**

**Memorial Day
May 26**

Sanitation one day late.

**Juneteenth
June 19**

Sanitation one day late
Friday & Saturday.

**Independence Day
July 4**

Sanitation one day late
on Saturday.

**Labor Day
September 1**

Sanitation one day late.

**Veterans Day
November 11**

Sanitation regular schedule.

**Thanksgiving
November 27 & 28**
Sanitation one day late
Friday - Saturday.

**Christmas Eve/Day
December 24 & 25**
Sanitation one day late
Friday - Saturday.

For additional sanitation information, contact NLR Sanitation at 501-371-8340.



**Free Community &
Family-Friendly Events**

Details for each event can be found at - argentaartsdistrict.org.

**Dogtown Throwdown
Friday, May 9**

4:00 pm-10:30 pm

Saturday, May 10

7:30 am-10:30 pm

**Third Friday Art Walk
Friday, May 16, 5:00-8:00 pm**

**Argenta Vibe Music Series
Saturday, June 14, 6:30-9:00 pm**
Appalachian Roadshow

**Third Friday Art Walk
Friday, June 20, 5:00-8:00 pm**



**Remaining 2025
Recycling Weeks**

May 4 & 18

June 1, 15 & 29

July 13 & 27

August 10 & 24

September 7 & 21

October 5 & 19

November 2, 16 & 30

December 14 & 28

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



Tornado Season -- Provided by NLR Emergency Services

As we move into peak tornado season, it's crucial for individuals and families to understand what a tornado is, how to prepare for one, and what actions to take during and after these violent storms.

A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. These powerful weather phenomena can wreak havoc, destroy well-built structures, uproot trees, and launch debris through the air. Tornadoes can form at any time of day or night and throughout the year, making it essential for communities to remain vigilant.

Residents should be aware of the definitions of a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. A Tornado Watch signifies that conditions are favorable for tornado formation within the area, prompting individuals to remain vigilant and prepared. Conversely, a Tornado Warning indicates that a tornado has either been spotted or detected via radar, necessitating immediate action to ensure safety.

North Little Rock and Maumelle tests tornado sirens every Wednesday at noon, unless there's severe weather. These outdoor warning systems are meant to alert people outside of potential danger. The sirens may not be heard well inside buildings. During tests, an automated voice announces a test, followed by a siren and another voice confirming the test's completion. In a real Tornado Warning, only the siren wail is activated. Both cities have strategically placed sirens throughout, and they sound when the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning within a geographical boundary, which includes a five-mile radius outside the city limits. This prepares citizens for potential tornadoes approaching the city.

During a tornado, it's critical to stay informed through local news or NOAA Weather Radio. Seek shelter immediately in a basement or an interior room free from windows. If at school or work, proceed to designated tornado shelters. For those caught outside, find a sturdy building for cover; however, sheds, tents, and mobile homes may not provide adequate protection. The National Weather Service advises against staying in a vehicle during a tornado. The best strategy is to reach the nearest tornado-safe shelter or, if that is not possible, lie low in a ditch or ravine to protect yourself.

After a tornado has passed, it's important to remain alert. Continue monitoring news channels and radio for updates. Check-in with family and loved ones to ensure their safety. Assess property damage safely and report downed power lines or gas leaks to local authorities. Most importantly, avoid entering damaged buildings that could pose safety hazards.

With storm season upon us, understanding tornado safety and preparedness can make a significant difference in protecting yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe.

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

PSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 588

May/June 2025

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