North Little Rock e-Newsletter

Provided by North Little Rock City Clerk/Treasurer



We decided to conduct an online search for '*things to know about the city of North Little Rock 2027'*. Below is a peek at some of the current and upcoming happenings in our city!

Utilities and City Budget

- **North Little Rock Electric** to launch a new customer experience, including a redesigned bill, new customer portal and app, Invoice Cloud payment processing, new kiosks, and direct outage reporting. Account number changes will be required to meet the requirements of the new system. Credit card payments will need to be reentered into the new system. The team is working on getting banking information transferred into the new system. Payment options will also include Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, and CheckFree Pay. The new bill design will provide customers with a clear view of their electric accounts. There will also be a new app and customer portal online which will require setup of a new account.

- **2027 City Budget** the Mayor's proposed 2027 Budget is currently before the City Council for approval (Monday, November 23, 2026). The budget includes additions to special appropriations and various city departments and can be viewed online at nlr.ar.gov/meeting/city-council/. To view a specific item (like the proposed budget R-26-261) scroll down and click on the highlighted call number. You can also reach out to the City Clerk's Office at 501-975-8617 for assistance.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

- **Eaton Manufacturing Facility**: Power management company Eaton announced a $242 million investment to build a 1 million-square-foot manufacturing facility along Highway 70 to produce custom modular electrical enclosures for data centers, utilities, and industrial markets. The project is expected to create 1,200 jobs. Construction completion is around 2028 and North Little Rock Electric is supporting infrastructure upgrades.
- **Downtown and Argenta area**: Construction continues around Argenta and Simmons Bank Arena, and includes the $25 million Area District with a 96-room Aloft Hotel, a 7,000-square-foot event venue, and relocation of Willy D's Piano Bar (from Little Rock to North Little Rock. Another project under construction is Tempo by Hilton scheduled to open in 2027. The new North Little Rock Event Center opened in 2026 and continues to be in high-demand as an event venue!

Sales Tax Reinvestment

Revenue from the half-cent sales tax approved in 2023 continues to fund fire stations, community centers, parks, public safety equipment, and infrastructure.

Schools & Community Facilities

Under a $70 million capital improvement plan backed by voters in 2025, a new seventh-and eighth-grade middle school is slated for students, alongside work on an indoor sports complex and the Old Main renovation.

North Little Rock is a city which encompasses 60 square miles. Our average workforce is 1,000. Employees consist of Police, Fire, 911 Operators, (city owned) Electric Department, Street, Traffic, Sanitation, Engineering, Community Development and Planning, Economic Development, Administration, Finance/Purchasing, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, Senior Center, Human Resources and more.
- Elected officials include Mayor, City Clerk/Treasurer, City Attorney, City Council Members (4 Wards – 2 per ward) and District Court Judges and staff.
- Affiliated agencies include North Little Rock Wastewater and Central Arkansas Water.

To see all city departments visit our website at nlr.ar.gov/departments/.

A you can see, this is a great city to call home! If you see something that needs our attention (pothole, streetlight out, suspicious activity, etc., please let us know! If it is an emergency, please call 911.

What to Donate to Your Local Animal Shelter

Found at https://mutts.com/blogs/news/

Every day, animal shelters provide lifesaving care and comfort to pets in need. But they can't do it alone! Most rely on the support of their communities to keep tails wagging and hearts hopeful.

Donations are always appreciated, and nearly all shelters appreciate new, unopened pet food — but there are many other items you can donate, too! This guide shares some of the most commonly requested animal shelter donations, including everyday pet gear, toys for cats and dogs, cleaning supplies, and more. Whether you're decluttering your home, organizing a group drive, or shopping for a meaningful gift, your donation can make a real difference.

A Few Quick Tips Before You Donate

Check in first: Needs can vary by location and season. Some shelters post their wish lists online, but when in doubt, you can always give them a quick call or email. It's the best way to make sure you're donating something they can really use.

Gently used is OK, sometimes: Used items are usually great, as long as they're clean and in good condition. However, when it comes to food and medicine, most shelters can only accept new and unopened items (and don't forget to check the expiration date first)!

Make it a group effort: Thinking of dropping off a box of supplies? Let friends, family, or coworkers know in case they want to contribute, too. A little teamwork can make a big impact.

Enrichment Toys: Helping Shelter Pets Feel at Home

For animals in shelters, life can be full of new sights, smells, and routines. While the goal is always to provide safety and care, the transition can be stressful — especially for pets who are shy, recovering from injuries, or just missing their old surroundings.

That's where enrichment toys come in! These toys provide mental and physical stimulation, helping animals stay engaged, ease anxiety, and express natural behaviors like chewing, scratching, or problem-solving.

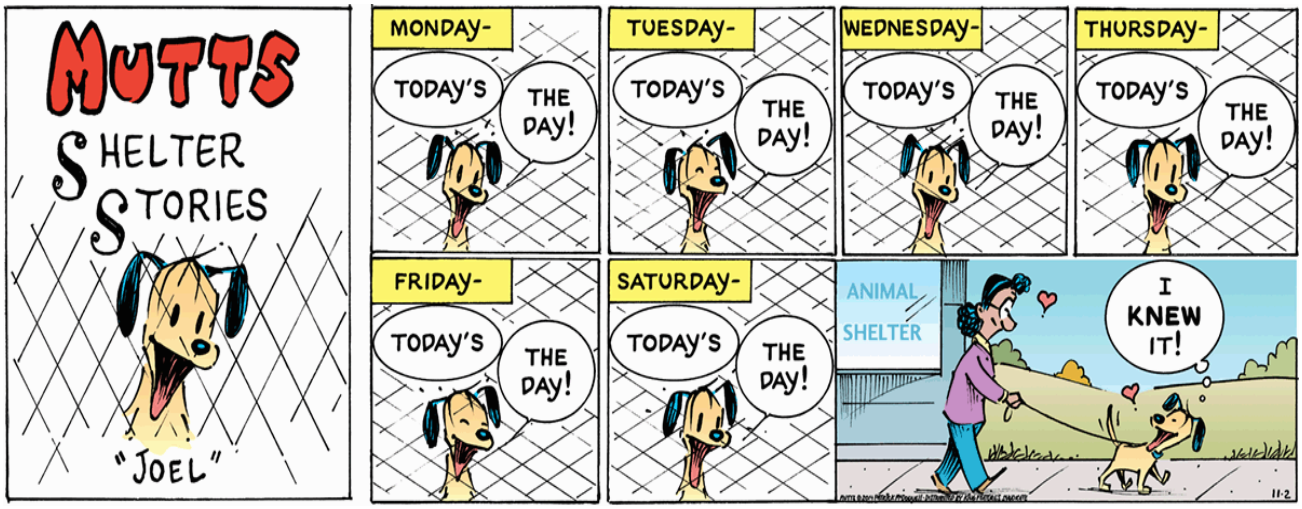
Everyday Pet Supplies for Animal Shelters

Beyond food and toys, shelters rely on a steady supply of practical gear to care for animals every day. If you're not sure what to give, you usually can't go wrong with something from this list: slip lead leash for dogs, foldable kennel, pet carriers (dog and cat) clumping cat litter.

A Little Help Goes a Long Way

Every toy, towel, or bag of food you donate helps lighten the load for shelter staff, and brings comfort to animals who are waiting for their forever homes. Whether you give once or make it a monthly habit, your kindness can create ripples of good.

Don't forget: Check your local shelter's wish list or give them a quick call to see what they need most. And if you're feeling inspired, share this list with a friend or start a donation drive in your neighborhood or workplace.



Mayor's Department Head Reports - October

Community Gardens—coordinated No Cost Food Market with other local agencies – 150 households were severed---approximately 2,000 pounds of food distributed. Calm + Confidence Beekeeping offered educational and community engagement events. Total 55 program volunteers.

Senior Citizens Center—launched new classes: Beginner Spanish and Beginner Knitting. Increased attendance in Move & Connect. Musician Price Djae visited Hays Center Line Dance Crew after seeing their "viral" social media video to his music. Trips included Saracen Casino, Hot Springs Arts and Craft Fair, Buc-ee's, Walmart Museum, King Biscuit, Professor Bowl, Arkansas State Fair, Beanfest, Bingo in Searcy and Crater of Diamonds State Park. Hays Center volunteer hours: 17,536. 21 new volunteer applications!

Animal Services—Incoming: dog – 132, cat 86, other none. Adopted: dog – 12, cat 19. Reclaim: dog – 21, cat 3. Owner Surrender: dog – 30, cat 11. Euthanize: dog 52, cat 13. Service calls: 616. Citations issued: 18. Vouchers issued: 75.

Sanitation—garbage/yard waste collected and disposed of 2,050.73 tons (4,101,460 lbs). Yard waste collected and disposed of 50 loads (1,460.00 cubic yard) of green waste. 50 calls for Waste Management related to curbside recycling. Collected 264 waste tires. Sanitation Code performed 23 inspections, 20 re-inspections, issued 6 notices, no citations issued.

Traffic Services—approved barricade permits – 130; AR One Call requests – 27; Special Projects – assisted IT with several projects; signs and posts repaired/replaced – 61; signs fabricated--38, city vehicles marked—3; approved event applications—8.

Engineering—State/Federal funded projects: Pike Avenue Improvements, Crystal Hill Road Extension, ADEM/BRIC Grant (Dixie), Legislative Pre-disaster Mitigation – East Bethany, Jacksonville Hwy Improvements, Main Street Viaduct – notified funds available/under design. CDBG (W3) W 35th Street and Drainage Improvements. Current City funded projects: Landfill Closure – continue coordination with ADEQ, Poplar & 2nd Street Promenade – under construction, AR River Trail Improvements – design, Burns Park Junior Tennis Courts rehab – complete, 2027 Overlay Program – coordinating with City Council Members, 911 Center Remodel – negotiating contract.

Police—9% decrease in violent crime; 30% decrease in property crime.

Fire—ESO Counts: Citizen Assist--148, False Alarm—72, Good Intent—22, Hazard nonchemical—57, Hazardous materials—60, Illness—660, Injury Trauma—182, Investigation—33, Law Enforcement Support—9, Outside Fire—75, Structure Fire—14, Structure Rescue—8, Transportation Fire—6, Transportation Rescue—3. Building surveys—140. Training: Special Ops, CPR refresher, Training Tower – Live Burns, Hazmat Training, Pump Ops—Riverfront Boat Ramp.

Office of Emergency Management/911—5,655 non-911 calls; 6,541 911 calls; 435 abandoned calls.

Community Development—new Director Beau Cooper.

Code Enforcement—Assigned calls – 91, Initiated calls—295, Follow up—765, Citations—11, Violation Notices—598, Vehicles Tagged—111, Vehicles Towed—0, Lots Posted—16, Signs Removed—0, Structures Inspected—16, Rental Inspections—18, Food Service Inspections—33, Search Warrants—0, Vacant Lots Cleaned—112, Lots With Structures—Cleaned—62, Vacant Houses Secured—1, Vacant Lots Mowed—112, Lots With Structures Mowed—59, Carts Removed—13, Tires Removed—0.

Planning—Sign Permits—9, Banner Permits—1, Demolition Permits—7, Residential Remodel Permits—40 (avg $20,742), Residential Addition Permits—4 (avg $31,250), Commercial Remodel/Addition Permits—99 (avg $11,188).

Electric—Online Payments—73%, (mailed) Check Payments—8%, Lobby Payments/Kiosk—1%, Bank ACH/PAP/EFT 17%.

Airport—new 10 Bay Hanger Project underway.

Parks & Recreation—Burns Park Covered Bridge repaired and painted, new bridge installed on Green Trail – accessible for people and horses. All pools and Splashpad winterized. Installing LED lights on Tennis courts. AIMM—826 paid visitors, 7 group visits: Truth Academy—41, Motorcycle—10, AR Construction Education Foundation—10, Abundant Life Christian Academy—33, JROTC Watson Chapel High School—46, Abundant Life Christian Academy—28, JROTC Watson Chaple—51, USS Sam Houston Reunion Memorial Service—45.

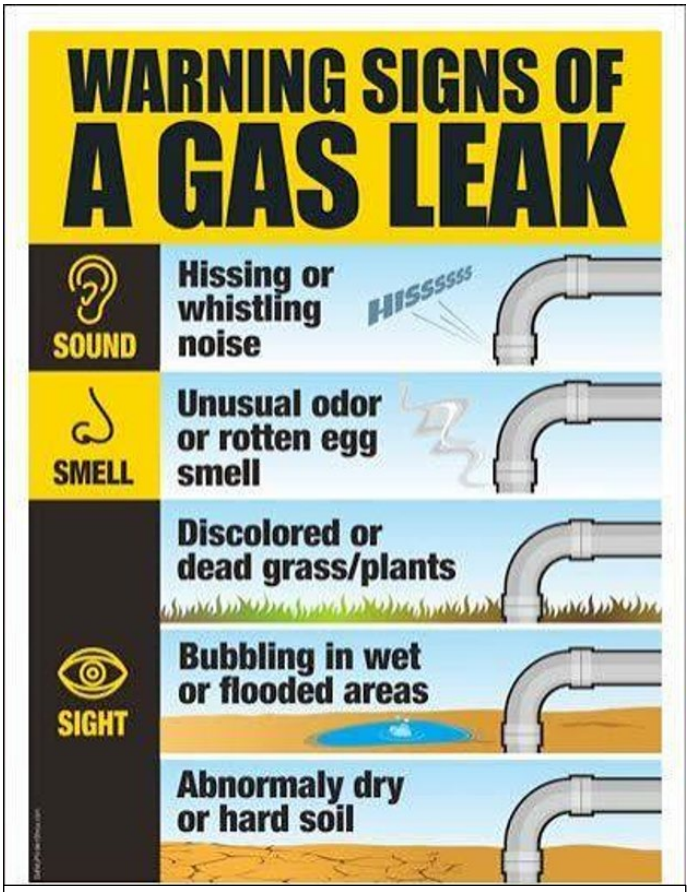
IMPORTANT SAFETY FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS SAFETY

- It's light. In fact, natural gas is almost 40 percent lighter than air, so it rises and quickly spreads out in open areas. In an enclosed room or building, natural gas first displaces air at ceiling level and then moves down toward the floor.
- Natural gas is non-toxic; however, it can be dangerous and pose serious safety hazards under certain conditions. Awareness, proper installation, and safety measures are crucial to prevent accidents and health risks.
- Natural gas is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, so a "rotten egg" odor is added for safety before it reaches your home, so it's easier to detect a leak if you have one.
- Natural gas is highly flammable but cannot burn by itself. For natural gas to burn, it must be mixed with air and have an ignition source such as a pilot light, a lighted match, or an electric arc from items such as light switches, motors, doorbells, or telephones.

In the event that you encounter a natural gas leak that has ignited (i.e. there is a flame), immediately evacuate the area, and once safely removed contact 911 or your local emergency number. Do not attempt to extinguish the fire, as only trained first responders should handle such situations.

For more information visit SummitNaturalGas.com
24-HOUR EMERGENCY LINE 1-800-883-3181.





PREVENTING PIPELINE EMERGENCIES KNOW WHAT'S BELOW, CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Using the 811 One-Call system when digging around a natural gas pipeline, or any other underground facility, is a state law and the only way to determine the approximate location of a buried pipeline.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process of getting your underground pipelines and utility lines marked for FREE. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your state One-Call Center.

It's that easy! Within a few days, a team will arrive at the given location and identify underground utilities with above-ground American Public Works Association (APWA) color-coded markings.

Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines so you can dig safely.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS -

North Little Rock City Offices will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday and Friday – **November 26 and 27, 2026** in observance of Thanksgiving Holidays.
Sanitation pickup will be delayed one-day Thursday, November 26. Thursday's pickup will be Friday and Friday's pickup will be Saturday.

Thursday and Friday – **December 24 and 25, 2026** in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
Sanitation pickup will run as scheduled Thursday, December 24. Sanitation will be delayed one-day Friday, December 25. Friday's pickup will be Saturday, December 26.

Friday, **January 1, 2027** in observance of New Year's Day.
Sanitation pickup will be delayed one-day Friday, January 1, 2027. Friday's pickup will be Saturday, January 2, 2026.

What are some things you can do for yourself for the new year?

Found at www.goodhousekeeping.com

Be kinder to yourself. Of course it's always good to spread kindness to others, but there are also health benefits to being more kind to yourself! In fact, one study found that practicing self-compassion slowed people's heart rate and sweating, two symptoms our bodies produce when we are under stress.

Start a gratitude journal. This may be the easiest new year's resolution, and also one of the ones that can really help you feel better. In fact, research has shown that recognizing the things in your life that you can be grateful for is good for your mental and physical wellness. It literally breathes new life into us. It recharges, and it rejuvenates. The best part? It takes only a few minutes every day to write in a gratitude journal.

Be more mindful. Contrary to popular belief, mindfulness doesn't require hours of weekly meditation or any special training. In fact, practicing mindfulness is just doing everything you can to be grateful for what you have in the moment, where you are in life and who you are right now.



Prioritize sleep. It's time to stop shrugging off issues like insomnia and sleep apnea and make a solid effort toward high-quality shuteye. A lack of sleep can lead to an array of problems, from memory problems to immune system challenges. Fortunately, there are many different ways to improve your sleep routine beyond going to bed earlier. A few ideas for better sleep: tweak your bedtime routine, pay attention to you caffeine intake and exercise more.

Chill out. It's time to let go of any anger you've been clinging to.
Constantly feeling angry (especially for women) can lead to less than desirable long-term effects on your holistic health. Chronic anger can impact the body in more ways than just one—it can induce headaches, anxiety, digestion problems and high blood pressure, among other drawbacks.

Whatever you do, do it for you!

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." — Göran Persson

atg Pavilion Now Open in Argenta (downtown) North Little Rock!

The atg Pavilion is the contemporary sculptural addition to the Argenta Plaza, inspired by renowned architect E. Fay Jones iconic Thorncrown Chapel. The Pavilion is a visionary cultural initiative designed to celebrate Arkansas's historic role in shaping American music. As a place-based public art experience, the project is committed to elevating regional arts and cultural infrastructure, creating vibrant public spaces, and strengthening community identity across Arkansas and the Delta region.

Located outdoors and accessible to the public, the Pavilion will house 21 large-scale bronze sculptures by Kevin Kresse honoring iconic Arkansas musicians whose artistry has shaped genres from gospel to rock, soul, country, and blues. Among the figures featured will be Cotton Plant's Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Forest City's Al Green, Delight's Glen Campbell, Marvell's Levon Helm and Brinkley's Louis Jordan. Anchoring the experience will be a central sculpture of Johnny Cash—an eight-foot bronze by Arkansas artist Kevin Kresse, identical to the one recently installed in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Congress.

The project includes the installation of original sculptures in the hometowns of each artist featured at the Pavilion, creating a network of cultural destinations and enriching the broader Arkansas music tourism experience. Through maps, signage, and promotional collateral, visitors will be encouraged to explore these communities, deepening statewide engagement and fostering regional pride.

Pictured right: North Little Rock Mayor Terry C. Hartwick and Kevin Kresse an Arkansas Native who is a painter and sculptor in Little Rock. Kresse has exhibited his work across the state and in New York, NY, Washington DC, Memphis, TN and Atlanta, GA.





Our North Little Rock Employees Have Multiple Talents!

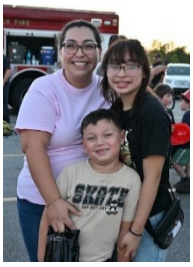
The Park Hill entrance sign (coming off the interstate) was recently damaged. Due to its location, it has taken a few hits over the years.

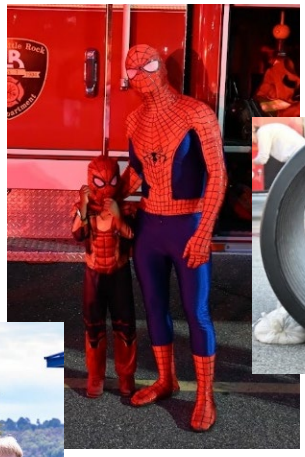
North Little Rock Vehicle Maintenance welders James Clingan and Geoff Nelson (pictured left with Director Kenny Brock) were up to the challenge when they showed up and repaired the damage at the site. Keep up the good work North Little Rock!

North Little Rock Fire Department Annual Firefest

Hundreds of visitors joined our North Little Rock Firefighters, North Little Rock Police Officers, Emergency Management, and Animal Shelter employees from our city and other local agencies for an evening of fun, education and treats! Members of the North Little Rock Lions Club were also on hand to provide free vision screenings! Below are a few photos from the event taken by Emilee Hagewood, North Little Rock Communications Project Manager.











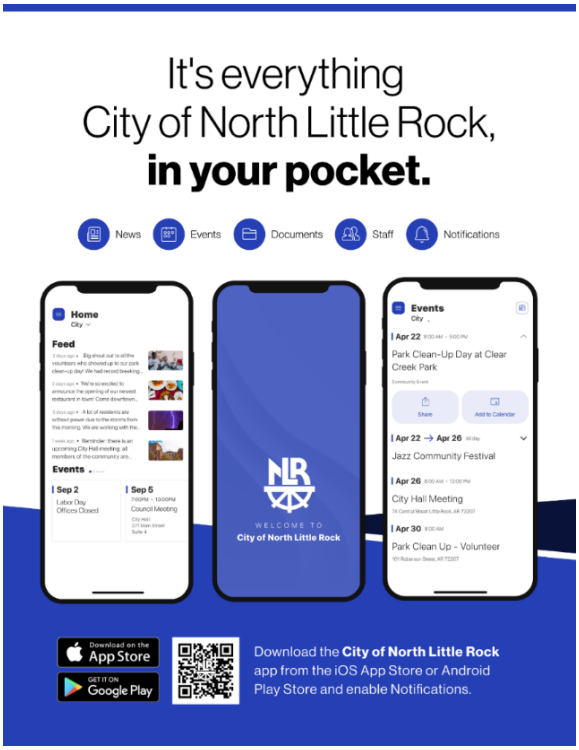




We found a few more pics of other folks enjoying North Little Rock, including the group above who were here for a Soccer Tournament…and the scary group that showed up at the Argenta Branch of Laman Library for Halloween!

Below, friends and family of Coach Floyd "Butter" Beard joined Ward 2 council members to plant a tree in his honor at the Glenview Recreation Center. Ward 2 Council Members Linda Robinson and Nicole Hart used In-Lieu of Tree Planting funds to purchase the tree which Bemis Tree Farm delivered and planted.

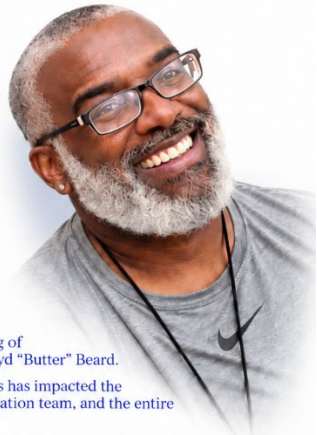




CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

COACH FLOYD "Butter" BEARD



MENTOR | LEADER | FRIEND
COACH | COMMUNITY CHAMPION

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of City of North Little Rock employee, Coach Floyd "Butter" Beard.

Words cannot fully express how deeply this loss has impacted the City of North Little Rock, our Parks and Recreation team, and the entire North Little Rock community.

Coach Butter dedicated 23 years of service to North Little Rock Parks and Recreation. He was more than a coach. He was a mentor, a friend, a leader, and a familiar face in our community centers. He poured into our young people, encouraged them, guided them, and touched so many lives through his love for sports and his commitment to serving others.

We recognize the tremendous impact Coach Butter's passing has had and will continue to have in the days ahead. Counselors and community pastors were on hand to support our staff and students during this initial phase of sadness and grief.

The lessons he taught, the encouragement he gave, and the lives he touched will continue to live on through the generations of young people he helped guide.

On behalf of the City of North Little Rock, we extend our deepest condolences to the Beard family, his loved ones, friends, former players, colleagues, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

REST PEACEFULLY,
Coach Butter.

YOUR WORK HERE WAS MEANINGFUL.
YOUR PRESENCE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED.
YOUR LEGACY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

FOREVER A PART OF THE
CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK.



DO NOT……place leaves in the street,
DO NOT……block the sidewalk,
DO NOT……block with a vehicle parked on the street,
DO NOT……place into storm drain,
DO NOT…add other debris (rocks, limbs, branches, trash, etc.).

Christmas Morning



North Little Rock Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 13, 2026
2:00 pm

scan QR code to sign-up


JOIN THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MAKING CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER FOR SENIORS IN LOCAL NURSING HOMES.
SILVER ANGELS
CHRISTMAS DRIVE
WE ARE CURRENTLY COLLECTING NEW ITEMS TO BRING COMFORT, WARMTH, AND A LITTLE FUN TO THEIR HOLIDAY SEASON:
SOCKS
HATS
GLOVES
HOUSE SHOES
T-SHIRTS (ALL SIZES)
BLANKETS
BOARD GAMES
COLORING BOOKS
(AND CRAYONS TOO!)
FOR A FULL LIST OF AMAZON WISHLIST ITEMS, SCAN BELOW:
FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
OFFICER SHANA COBBS,
NLRPD LIAISON TO UNSHELTERED COMMUNITY AT (501) 975-8780
DROP-OFF LOCATION:
NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPT.
#1 JUSTICE CENTER DRIVE, NLR



The holiday season is here!

Blessings & Badges pairs children with local law enforcement officers to shop for Christmas gifts. The program is designed to brighten the holiday season for children from families facing financial challenges, giving them the chance to experience a memorable Christmas.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with wrapping gifts
or for more information please reach out to
North Little Rock Police Officer/Unsheltered Liasion Shay Cobbs
Shana.Cobbs@nlrpolice.org
or call Cynthia Rice at 501-812-2559
Date of event: Saturday, December 6th, 2026
Walmart, 4450 McCain Boulevard, North Little Rock
7:00 –a.m. – 10:00 a.m.