

North Little Rock e-Newsletter

Provided by Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Treasurer

May 2026

5 Little Known Facts About The Old Mill

Found at northlittlerock.org

The Old Mill at T. R. Pugh Memorial Park has been in North Little Rock for almost 90 years. Its claim to fame is being in the opening credits of the 1939 film, *Gone with the Wind*. But it has hidden gems from much, much earlier in Arkansas and United States history. Here are five of the things you may not know about *The Old Mill* in North Little Rock.

1. See remnants of an 1800s steamboat. Three hexagonal beams, located behind the "Broken Tree Branch" bench, were cut from the stern wheel of a passenger steamboat that traveled the Arkansas River in the 1800s.
2. Discover a milestone from the forced migration of Native Americans. A rock etched with the number one, located on the west side of the park by the stone steps leading to the water feature, was moved here from an 1830s military road, along which the Cherokee and Choctaw traveled into the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The road had been laid out in Yell County, Arkansas, by Jefferson Davis, a young army engineer who would become the only President of the Confederate States of America. *Edit:* there is a second milestone etched with the number four somewhere in the park, but it was lost in a landslide. If you find it, let us know!
3. Though it was never a working mill, *The Old Mill* contains real parts from other mills. The grist mill inside *The Old Mill* came from the Cagle family of Pope County, Arkansas, and dates back to 1828. The large mill rock on the first floor dates to 1823.
4. *The Old Mill* contains hidden, intricate details to be as authentic as possible, like the cellar and coat hooks. This small door under the staircase in *The Old Mill* may look real, but you'll be trying in vain to open it. The "cellar" was a common feature of mills, where workers could put their lunches to keep them cool during the day. Looking at the cellar, turn to your left and you'll see hooks where workers could hang their coats.
5. Who is "Pugh"? Thomas R. Pugh was an agricultural leader in southeast Arkansas and close friend of Justin Matthews, the North Little Rock developer who constructed *The Old Mill*. Matthews dedicated the mill in his honor. Today *The Old Mill*'s official name is *The Old Mill* at T. R. Pugh Memorial Park. *The Old Mill*'s cornerstone and the mill rocks inside are actually from the plantation of Tom Pugh's grandfather.

So how did these seemingly random historic objects end up at *The Old Mill* in North Little Rock, Arkansas? It seems Justin Matthews may have had a penchant for collecting and preserving items from the early 1800s, but the details of how he obtained them are mostly shrouded in mystery. We do know that Matthews was dedicated to providing as an authentic experience as possible and paying tribute to early American pioneers. His work changed the landscape of North Little Rock and is enjoyed by thousands of locals and visitors every year.

A summarized history found at nlr.ar.gov

In 1931, Justin Matthews developed the Lakewood neighborhood in North Little Rock. He contracted for the construction of a replica of an old, water-power grist mill dedicated to the memory of Arkansas's pioneers. Neither the stone mill building, nor the general layout is a reproduction of any particular mill, but is a familiar design of early Arkansas, designed to fit the contour of a rough area.

The Mill, completed in 1933, is intended to appear abandoned.

On May 24, 1976, *The Old Mill* was given to the City of North Little Rock by the former Justin Matthews Company.

Saturday, May 16, 2026 join the *Friends of the Old Mill* for a party to celebrate the historic site becoming a City Park. Admission is (always) free. Visitors are encouraged to pull out their 1970's attire for the event!

Another fun bit of history, many of you already know...

The Old Mill was filmed in the opening scenes of the famous award-winning movie, *Gone With the Wind*, which was released in 1939 and featured actress Vivien Leigh (Scarlett O'Hara) and Clark Gable (Rhett Butler). The movie has been widely considered one of the highest-grossing films of all time when adjusted for inflation.



Party like it's 1976!

WHAT: A PARTY to celebrate the Old Mill being a City Park since 1976! Free admission! Refreshments, prizes, giveaways, talks, & tours!

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2026
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Old Mill
3800 Lakeshore, NLR

Get your groove on and dress in your best 1970's attire! Can you dig it?



"Where's Mel"? Be the first person to call 501-975-8617 and tell us where you found Mel hiding and win!





**North Little Rock
Animal Services**
For more information
call 501-791-8577

Behavior Challenges: Fear of Loud Noises

Found at sdhumane.org

Thunder, fireworks or other loud sounds often scare pets, even if a pet hasn't had a negative experience tied to the loud noise. This is entirely understandable! Imagine hearing loud booms outside and not knowing where they came from. You would likely be on edge too, right? With patience and understanding, you can make your pet more comfortable with these sounds and help them manage their fear—which can become even worse if left untreated.

Fear Responses

The most common reactions pets have to loud noises are destruction and attempts to flee. When pets become frightened, they will instinctually try to reduce their fear. They may try to escape to a place where the sounds of thunder or firecrackers are less intense. If escape is effective in calming the pet and reducing fear, then escaping as a coping mechanism becomes reinforced, and it is more likely to happen again in the future.

For some pets, just the activity or physical exertion associated with fleeing or being destructive may be an outlet for their anxiety. But these behaviors can be unpleasant for you at best — and may result in physical injury or loss of your pet at worst.

When your pet is startled by a sound, they may associate the environment with their fear. For example, pets afraid of thunder may later become afraid of the wind, dark clouds and lightning that often comes before the sound of thunder. Dogs who are afraid of firecrackers may become afraid of the person holding them or become afraid to go into the yard where they've seen them. Over time, these fearful reactions can transform into undesirable behavior if left unaddressed.

What You Can Do to Help?

Create a Safe Place—Your pet will appreciate a place to go when they hear noises that frighten them. If possible, choose a safe space that your pet already finds comforting. If they are trying to get inside the house, create open access to the home through a pet door. If your pet feels safe under your bed, give them access to your bedroom. Once you establish a safe space, you can add a fan or radio to help block frightening noises. Encourage your pet to go to this space when thunder or other noises occur. Use treats and food to create a positive association with the sounds. Ensure your pet can come and go freely from their safe space — they should not feel confined or trapped.

Distract Your Pet—A safe space will work for most pets, but some pets require activity when they are frightened.

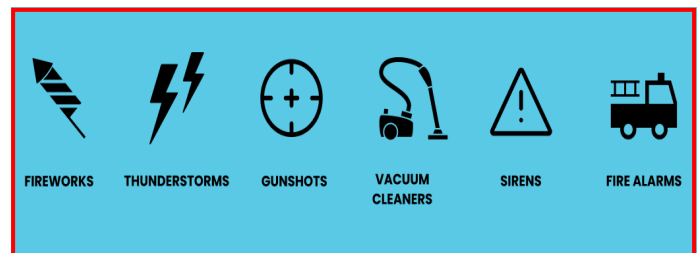
When your pet begins to show signs of anxiety, encourage them to engage in an activity that captures their attention and distracts them from behaving out of fear. Play fetch indoors, let them chase you or encourage them to chase a long rope toy. Give your pet lots of praise and treats as they pay attention and follow directions.



If loud noises, such as a storm, continue to build, you may be unable to keep their attention on the activity. A distraction will help delay any fearful behavior, even if it cannot stop it completely. If you can't keep your pet's attention, you should stop the distraction process. If you continue, you may accidentally reinforce some fearful behaviors.

What Not to Do—

- Don't ignore your pet. Fear is an emotion, not a behavior. If your pet seems to be soothed by you laying near them or petting them, this is perfectly fine and may make them feel even better.
- Don't lock your pet in a crate during a thunderstorm. Your pet will likely still be afraid and could injure themselves trying to escape the crate. However, you can provide them with the option of going into their crate while leaving the door open as their safe space.
- Don't punish your pet for inappropriate behavior when they are afraid. Punishment is not a successful way to modify fearful behaviors and could worsen phobias and behavior. Suppressing their fearful behavior through punishment — like using a shock or e-collar — can lead to other problematic behavior instead as your dog tries to find other ways to express or process their fear.
- Don't force your pet to stay in a situation or environment with frightening noises. This could lead to aggressive behavior in your pet's attempt to escape the situation.



Need a new
addition to your
family?
Call 501-791-8577
...we've got the
perfect companion
for you!



Our shelter is full of dogs, cats, puppies and
kittens in need of a furever home. Please
consider adopting a shelter pet for your next pet.

Please Don't Litter
Spay or Neuter
Your Critter



Don't shop! Please adopt!



North Little Rock Fire Department

Tornadoes found at ready.gov



We know this, but here are some good reminders...

Tornadoes are fast-spinning columns of air that reach from a thunderstorm down to the ground. They can destroy buildings, flip cars and send dangerous debris flying through the air.

A tornado can:

- ⇒ Happen anytime and anywhere.
- ⇒ Bring intense winds, over 200 miles per hour.
- ⇒ Look like funnels.

If you are under a tornado or severe weather warning

- ⇒ Listen to local weather reports and officials for updated emergency information. Follow their instructions to remain safe.
- ⇒ Find safe shelter immediately in your home like a safe room, basement, storm cellar or a small interior room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- ⇒ Go to a public shelter if you can't stay at home.
- ⇒ Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- ⇒ Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- ⇒ Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death.

Before a Tornado

- ⇒ Know your area's tornado risk. In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.
- ⇒ Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- ⇒ Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, become familiar with the warning tone.
- ⇒ Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.
- ⇒ Identify and practice going to a safe shelter such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room or basement on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- ⇒ Plan for your pet. They are an important member of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan.
- ⇒ Prepare for a long-term stay at home or sheltering in place by gathering emergency supplies, cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and medication.

During a Tornado

- ⇒ Immediately go to a safe location that you have identified.
- ⇒ Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- ⇒ Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.

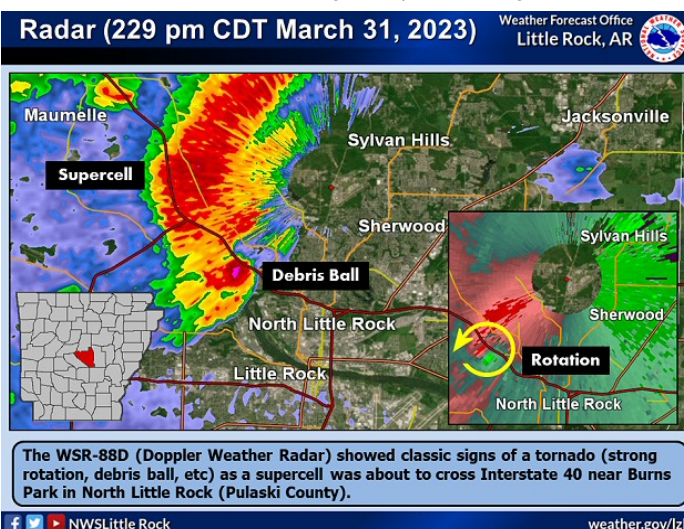
⇒ In a car or truck: There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less dangerous ones.

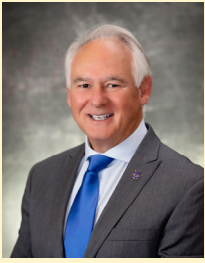
- If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado.
- If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible -- out of the traffic lanes.
- Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
- Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

After a Tornado

- ⇒ Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, and local authorities for updated information.
- ⇒ Save your phone calls for emergencies and use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- ⇒ Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
- ⇒ Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and continue to shelter in place.
- ⇒ Wear appropriate gear during clean-up such as thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves. Use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.

Below is a screenshot from March 31, 2023 at 2:29 p.m. of a (EF3) tornado which traveled 34 miles across Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood and Jacksonville causing widespread damage.





Mayor Terry C. Hartwick holds a monthly department head meeting. Department heads provide a report of activities, projects, and accomplishments. **March 2026**

Senior Center—total members 3,392. Volunteer Services—Hays Center hours 1,220; *hours from other city departments/entities not provided*. Trips included: Red Hat Ladies went to Pot

Restaurant, Bean Bag Baseball-Des Arc and Jacksonville, Vintage Market Days, Old Washington-Hope, Bingo-Searcy, Chair Volleyball-Maumelle, Bobby's Cafe.

Finance—city sales tax collections were higher than the same period a year ago by 2.7%. County sales tax collections were higher for the same period by 3.1%. (March receipts represent retail sales from the month of January). Food and lodging tax collection for the year was approximately \$1,166,061.

Sanitation—Garbage and yard waste crews collected 2,762.99 tons (5,525,980 lbs) of household garbage, rubbish and junk. Yard Waste crews also collected 115 loads (3,272.00 cubic yards) of green waste. Leaf crews disposed of 35 loads (1,190.70 cubic yards of loose leaves), 245 waste tires picked up. Sanitation Code performed 10 inspections, 3 re-inspections and issued 1 notices for non-compliance. No citations were issued. Recycling tonnage was not reported. Units 50 & 51 (Street Dept) picked up 305 bags of trash, other units picked up 397 bags of trash, along with car parts, buckets, shopping carts, etc.

Traffic Services—Barricade Permits—88, AR One Call—33, Signs/Post replaced—54, Signs fabricated—129, City Vehicles marked with logo—0.

Fire—1,211 incidents, (citizens assist-91, false alarm-, good intent-, hazard non-chemical-42, hazardous-materials -8, illness-512, injury trauma-134, investigations-15, medical other-13, outside fire-30, public service other-4, structure fire-16, transportation fire-8, transportation rescue-3. 189 Building Surveys. Training included: Training Tower, annual hose testing, and Core Rescue Class.

Emergency Services/911—Incoming calls: 5,762—non-911 calls, 6,203—911 calls, 532—abandoned 911 calls.

Planning—sign permits—12, banner permits—2, demolition permits—6, 4 commercial remodel — average \$642,719, 5 new commercial—average \$7,427,100, issued 36 new single family residence permits—average \$195,027 , 56 residential remodel—average \$14,065, 2 residential additions—average \$20,000. Planning Zoning Officer issued 1 citation, 15 inspections/site visits, 39-follow up inspections and investigated 13 sign violations.

Code Enforcement—assigned calls—88, initiated calls 351, citations—12, violation notices—454, vehicles tagged—116, vehicles towed—0, lots posted—54, signs removed—0, structures inspected—49, rental inspections—22, food service inspections—28, search warrants—4, structures condemned—9, houses demolished by city—5, houses demolished by owner—2, vacant lots cleaned/mowed—14, lots with structures cleaned—12, lots with

structures mowed—0, vacant houses secured—7, tires removed—0.

Parks and Recreation—Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum had 1,395 visitors. Groups: Methodist Family Health Girls Group, Virtual School Group (32), ASU Three Rivers (10), Central AR Homeschool Academy (46), Lead Hill School District (23), St. Paul's Lutheran School (19), Star City High School (47). Overnight: Troop 295 Maumelle (20), USAF Little Rock (22), Scout Troup 639 Cherokee Village (12). Special Events: USSVI Razorback Base—St. Patrick's Day Parade. Field use: Soccer 56 practices/ 131 games/ 0 tournaments, Youth baseball 84/1/1, Softball 43/6/0, Senior Baseball 14/27/0, Stone Links Cricket 0/0/0. Facility rentals: Pavilions—16, Hospitality House—10, Idlewild—3, Stone Links—9, River House—6. Tennis: -Open Play, 1 Special Event. Pickleball Leagues, lessons ongoing.

Mayor's Youth Council—council members volunteer at NLR Animal Shelter each Saturday, Volunteer at Canvas running hygiene closet every Wednesday, meet monthly at Laman Library for Knit-Wits knitting hats and scarves to stockpile for winter, visited residents at Blossoms Nursing home, volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, volunteer at Arkansas Foodbank, volunteer at McCain Mall (to help Easter Bunny!), volunteer at the Grove Store (low cost thrift store and choice-based food pantry).

Animal Services—

Incoming:

Dog	112/ytd	338
Cat	66/ytd	169
Other	5/ytd	7

Reclaim:

Dog	14/ytd	68
Cat	0/ytd	0
Other	2/ytd	2

Owner Surrender:

Dog	19/ytd	51
Cat	12/ytd	35
Other	0/ytd	1

Service calls: 539/ytd 1,430

Citations: 25/ytd 80

Vouchers (spay/neuter)
issued: 34/ytd 106

Adopted:

Dog	21/ytd	89
Cat	15/ytd	66
Other	3/ytd	5

Euthanized:

Dog	37/ytd	143
Cat	6/ytd	11
Other	0/ytd	0



NLR Electric—

Customers: 40,691

Revenue: \$7,182,510

Peak Demand: 131,595 kWh

Territory: 60 square miles

RS (Residential Solar)

Net Meter Customers: 398

Total RS solar panel capacity: 2,986 kW

Average RS solar panel capacity: 7.5 kW

Residents with solar arrays at least 10 kW: 65

Total capacity of customer-owned solar: 11,185 kW

Major outages: 3-7-26 Levy 2 Substation—vegetation (storm) at 4800 Augusta Circle—9,265 out 2 hr 18 min to 4 hr 57 min; 3-7-26 C12—broken crossarm (storm) 700 N Broadway—1,657 out 5 hr 13 min; 3-8-26 McCain Substation—animal at 4500 E. 43rd (inside station)—186 customers out 1 hr 22 min to 1 hr 26 min.

Distracted Driving

Found at <https://www.cdc.gov/distracted-driving>
—January 28, 2026

What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is doing another activity that takes the driver's attention away from driving and can increase the chance of a vehicle crash.

There are three main types of distraction:

1. **Visual:** taking your eyes off the road
2. **Manual:** taking your hands off the wheel
3. **Cognitive:** taking your mind off driving

Sending a text message, talking on a cell phone, using a navigation system, and eating while driving are a few examples of distracted driving. Any of these distractions can endanger you, your passengers, and others on the road.

Impact—Distracted Driving Impacts Thousands in the United States Annually

- 9 people in the US are killed every day in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver.



- Over 3,100 people were killed and about 424,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2019.
- About 1 in 5 people who died in crashes involving a distracted driver (above) were NOT in vehicles—they were walking, riding bikes, or otherwise outside a vehicle.

People at increased risk

Young adult and teen drivers are more at risk for distracted driving than other age groups. Among fatal crashes involving distracted drivers (2019) a higher percentage of drivers ages 15-20 were distracted than drivers over the age of 21.

What you can do:

Drivers should not multitask and can use apps to help avoid cell phone use while driving.

Passengers can speak up if the driver is distracted and can assist with navigation or other tasks.

Parents can set consequences for distracted driving and set an example by keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel while driving.

Distracted Walking Safety Tips

Found at statefarm.com/simple-insights

Protect yourself from a texting while walking injury by following these pedestrian safety tips:

- **Stay off your phone.** Ask yourself if it can wait. Chances are, it can.
- **Stop walking.** If you urgently need to use the phone, find a safe place to step aside. Complete your call or text before resuming your walk.
- **Prepare ahead of time.** If you know you want to listen to music or a book during your walk, queue up the playlist before you move.
- **Look up.** If you absolutely must take a peek at your phone while you're walking, hold it higher in your visual field instead of looking down.
- **Obey the laws.** Cross only at crosswalks whenever possible, and obey all traffic signals.
- **Be attentive.** Frequently assess your surroundings, and before crossing the street, make eye contact with drivers so you know you've seen each other.

- **Use helpful technology.** Consider software that reads messages aloud and enables voice-to-text typing so you can keep your head up and hands free.
- **Turn down the volume.** Keep your phone's volume to a reasonable level so you can hear what's happening around you. Noise-canceling headphones are a definite no-no when walking.

Finally, when you're behind the wheel, think about distracted walking.

Be particularly careful when backing up and as you enter busy intersections. Paying attention to pedestrians who aren't could save both of your lives.



The most common workplace distraction is...

Found at toggl.com

.....Chatty coworkers. Workers contend with a host of different distractions. But 70% of workers say social yapping drained their focus more than anything else, according to Insightful's report on "Lost Focus: *The Cost Of Distractions On Productivity In The Modern Workplace*."

In an office, this might look like a colleague coming up and asking for help with a certain tool or document. They've already interrupted you — but they mean well and need help, so you invite them to sit. They settle in next to you, and you start resolving together. But as you're discussing the work, you start chatting about other things (you know...the weather, the weekend, the kids), and suddenly, you've spiraled into a concentration dead zone, likely distracting those around you, too.

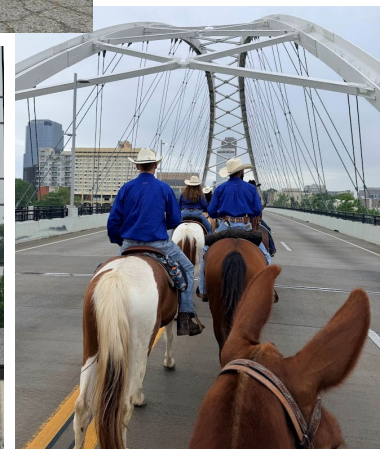
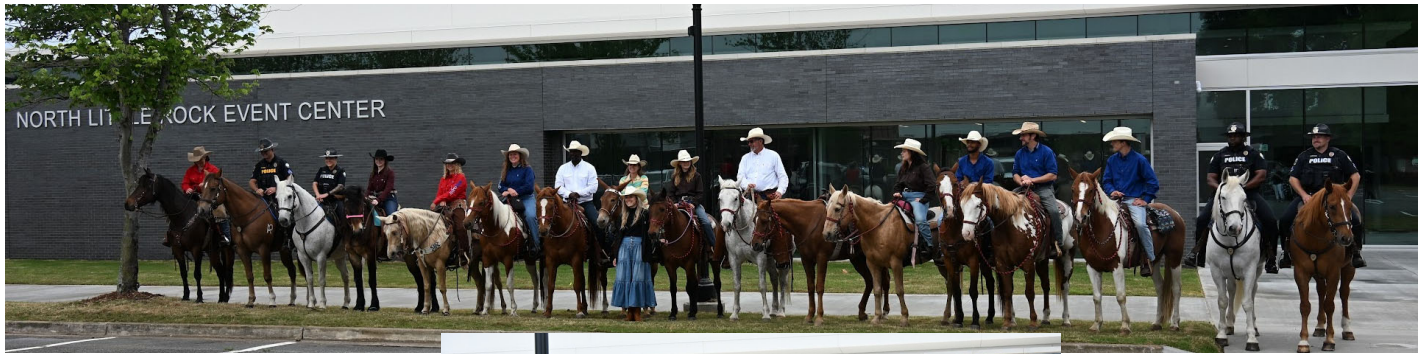
Unfortunately, there's a virtual version of this for remote workers. An invite to a spontaneous Slack Huddle or repetitive notifications from colleagues who don't understand digital boundaries can kill your focus instantly. If the team group chat starts diverging into gifs and memes, it's hard to get back on track.

Other common workplace distractions

Losing focus at work isn't always as obvious as a coworker stopping by to chat. Sometimes, distractions creep in without us even realizing it, pulling our attention away bit by bit. Here are some more to watch out for:

Continued on page 12... 5

Wednesday, April 22, 2026—the City of North Little Rock welcomed **The Long Road Home Project** riders with a proclamation presented by Mayor Terry C. Hartwick declaring it their day. The 'long ride' (220 miles across the state on horseback) ended at the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol. The purpose of the ride was to raise awareness for children in foster care and the families who care for them.





Left: Riders from across the state pass by North Little Rock City Hall on their way to the state Capitol. They were escorted by Little Rock Mount Patrol, LR Motorcycle Patrol, and North Little Rock Police and Fire Departments.



It is a public act of honor, responsibility, and resolve on behalf of children, families, and professionals impacted by foster care. The journey was shaped by years of direct work alongside boys from hard places—witnessing both quiet resilience and the structural gaps that place children and families at risk.

In Arkansas, thousands of children enter foster care each year, many experiencing repeated placements while caseworkers carry unsustainable caseloads and foster families strain to continue. Instability leaves lasting marks, and silence allows broken systems to persist.

In April 2026, the Long Road Home will ride on horseback from Northwest Arkansas to the State Capitol to carry those stories forward. Handwritten letters from foster youth, foster families, and frontline caseworkers will be delivered to Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders as a formal record of lived experience.

Our hope is to inspire change. Ignite support. Raise awareness.

For more information visit thelongroadhomeproject.org



Peddlers Permit City of North Little Rock

Issued to: **Mel Dun**

Issued: 1/2/2026

Expires: 4/3/2026



Sex: Male

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Dun

Height: 15 hands

Employer: **Equine sunglasses**

Type of Goods Sold: **Sunglasses for horses**

City Clerk and Treasurer Diane Whitbey

By: **SAMPLE ONLY—**
only valid with signature

Deputy City Clerk / Treasurer, Revenue

To see a **list of issued permits**, visit the city website at nlr.ar.gov, then click City Departments and scroll down to City Clerk and Treasurer. Look for the dark box and click on Current Door to Door Peddlers.

To see an **individual ID/Permit**, click on the person's name. All licensed door-to-door peddlers are **required to have the ID issued by the City Clerk's Office with them at all times**.

*****Currently, we have no door to door solicitors.***

All persons doing business ***of any kind*** within the city limits of North Little Rock are required to have a Business/Privilege License. This includes home-based such as lawn care or internet sales.

*****If a business operates 1 day into the new year (2026), it is required to obtain a business license at the full fee.*****

All 2025 NLR Business Licenses expired December 31, 2025. Renewal Invoices were mailed December 31 for the 2026 renewal.

If you have any questions, please contact the North Little Rock City Clerk's Office at 501-975-8617.

Why do cities charge a privilege tax?

Cities charge a privilege tax for the right to engage in specific activities or operate certain businesses within their jurisdiction.

Here is a breakdown of why cities (and towns) use privilege taxes:

Revenue Generation:

- **Funding Public Services:** The primary reason for privilege taxes is to generate revenue for the city.
- **Essential Services:** This revenue helps fund essential public services like infrastructure, public safety, sanitation, parks, and other community amenities.

User-Based Funding:

- **Benefit Principle:** Privilege taxes can align revenue generation with those who directly benefit from the city's services and infrastructure by engaging in specific activities or businesses.
- **Fairness:** It can be argued that those who engage in certain profitable or impactful activities within the city should contribute to the city's upkeep and services.

Regulating Business and Activity:

- **Business Operations:** Privilege taxes can function as a regulatory tool, ensuring that businesses operating within the city adhere to local rules and ordinances, according to L&Y Tax advisors.
- **Permits and Licenses:** Many privilege taxes are levied in exchange for a permit or license to operate a particular business or engage in a specific profession, ensuring oversight and accountability.

Examples of Privilege Taxes:

- **Business Privilege Tax:** A tax on the gross receipts or other measures of a business operating within the city.
- **Occupational Privilege Tax:** A tax on certain professions or occupations within the city.
- **Transaction Privilege Tax (like in Arizona):** A tax on specific transactions, often on the seller, for the privilege of doing business in the city.
- **Other Examples:** Could include taxes on specific activities like short-term rentals, or events, depending on the city.

In summary, cities charge privilege taxes to raise revenue for public services (like police, fire, streets, parks, drainage), ensure businesses contribute to the community, and regulate certain activities within their jurisdiction.

The team at the North Little Rock City Clerk and Treasurer's Office works hard to ensure existing licenses are correct (reflecting the type of business being performed/offered), accurate (ensuring the business is being charged the correct fee based on services offered). Current (following up with existing businesses to ensure they are operating legally within the current year). Tracking new businesses (ensuring all businesses are treated equally and licensed).

If a state license or inspection is required (contractor, day-care, health inspections, etc.) our team will obtain a copy prior to issuing a license. This helps protect our constituents before they hire a contractor, sign up with a daycare or eat in a local restaurant.

We are here to serve our community! If you have any questions, give us a call! 501-975-8617.

North Little Rock City Council Schedule

The North Little Rock City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at **6:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers in City Hall (300 Main Street, North Little Rock).

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 501-975-8617 or email Diane Whitbey at Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov.

The City Council Agenda can be found at nlr.ar.gov, then click on the Elected Officials tab, followed by City Council then scroll to upcoming City Council Agenda.

City Offices located at 700 West 29th

Construction and Building Services Mary Beth Bowman	501-975-8881
Finance, Ember Strange/Anita Worley	501-975-8802
Human Resources, Betty Anderson Fit 2 Live, David Baxter	501-975-8855
Legal, Amy Fields, City Attorney	501-975-3755
Planning, Shawn Spencer	501-975-8835
Utilities Accounting, Terrell Milton	501-975-8888

City Council Members

Ward 1	Debi Ross Nathan Hamilton	501-753-0733 501-952-7679
Ward 2	Linda Robinson Nicole Hart	501-945-8820 501-960-2461
Ward 3	Steve Baxter Ron Harris	501-804-0928 501-758-2877
Ward 4	Vince Insalaco III Scott Fowler	501-951-0786 501-765-5868

Utility Payment Assistance and Other Numbers

Central AR Development Council.....	501-665-4870
Little Rock Catholic Charities...	501-664-0640 ext 459
Saint Francis House.....	501-664-5036
Watershed.....	501-378-0176
Helping Hand of Arkansas.....	501-372-4388
River City Ministries.....	501-376-6694
Arkansas Metro.....	501-420-3824
Arkansas Food Bank.....	501-565-8121
American Red Cross.....	501-748-1021
Salvation Army.....	501-374-9296
Central AR Water.....	501-372-5161 opt 6
Summit Utilities.....	800-992-7552
Electric / Gas Central AR Dev Council..	501-603-0909

Other Elected Officials

Mayor Terry C. Hartwick	501-975-8601
City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey	501-975-8617
City Attorney Amy Fields	501-975-3755
Dist Court Judge Randy Morley	501-791-8562
Dist Court Judge Paula Juels Jones	501-791-8559

Telephone Numbers for City Hall

Mayor's Office.....	501-975-8601
Terry C. Hartwick	
City Clerk & Treasurer.....	501-975-8617
Diane Whitbey	
Communications.....	501-975-8833
Shara Hutchcraft	
Revenue Enforcement.....	501-975-8612
Officer David Pettit	
Special Projects.....	501-975-3737
Arnessa Bennett	

North Little Rock Curbside Recycling schedule for May 2026.



May 1 — no pickup
May 4—8, recycle
May 11—15 no pickup
May 18—22, recycle
May 25—29 no pickup

May Birthdays

Name	Dept	Date	Name	Dept	Date
HAMILTON, BRANTON	Police	1	HAMMONDS, TIMOTHY	Electric	16
KOLB, MATTHEW	Fire	1	FORTNER, STEPHEN	Street	16
MCCAA, JESSICA	Police	1	BROOKS III, SAM	Street	17
ZONNER, GREGORY	AIMM	3	DOUGAN, SHANE	Fire	17
UNDERWOOD, ZACHARY	Police	3	SCALES, CARMEN	Police	17
WOODWARD, JASON	Police	4	LANKFORD, STEVEN	Fire	18
WALKER, NICHOLAS	Fire	5	HUTCHCRAFT, SHARA	Communications	18
CUNNINGHAM, JENNIE	Parks Rec	6	HEFFENTRAGER, ZACKERY	Fire	19
HARRIS, CHARLES	Street	7	KABAT, ANITA	Animal Shelter	19
LEGGS, PRISCILLA	Senior Center	7	GOTELL, ISAAC	Parks Maint	19
BLACK, BILLIE	Planning	7	GARTRELL, RUSTY	Police	19
PATE, TONY	Parks Rec	8	DAVIS JR, CHARLES	Fire	20
WASS, MEGAN	Finance	8	DESIDERIO, ANTHONY	Fire	20
WALKER, SEAN	Fire	8	GUZILAN, ABIGAIL	Finance	20
BRAGGS, TIMOTHY	Planning	8	JAMES, JUSTIN	Electric	20
FERRY, CHRISTINE	Electric	8	SHOSHONE, RICKY	Fire	20
HAYDEN, DEMARIO	Fire	8	KULESA, LOGAN	Police	20
DAUGHERTY, JERRI	Police	9	HELMICH, JONNY	Police	21
COBBS, SHANA	Police	10	TIMS, LONNELL	Police	21
WALKER, JERRELL	Police	10	DONLEY, DANIELLE	Police	21
BARBER, JOHN	IT	11	HOLLEY, MICHAEL	Fire	22
ALLEN, GREGORY	Vehicle Maint	11	SHIRLEY, TUCKER	Police	23
SINGLETON, CORNELIUS	Parks Maint	11	ALEXANDER JR, VAN	Golf	24
SANTUCCI, ALEXANDER	Police	12	CAVNOR, JACOB	Golf	25
DEPRIEST, LANE	Fire	12	MCCOY, JOHNNATHAN	Parks Maint	26
HARRIS, JOHN	Electric	12	DILLON, KATHRYN	Vehicle Maint	28
KINKAID, BRYAN	Police	13	JOHNSON, MYEEKEDRA	HR	29
COOPER, AMY	Police	13	AUSTIN, DARREN	Parks Maint	29
BOWERS, JOSHUA	Planning	14	DUCKERY, KRASTAL	Electric	29
BROWN, JIMMY	Parks Maint	14	SORRELLS, KARL	Police	29
PHIFER, LAFRANCIS	Parks Rec	14	ROSS, RICHARD	Planning	30
VERHOESTRA, MARI	OES/911	15	POWELL, TOMMY	Golf	30
HOLLAND, JENIFER	Parks Rec	15	FRESHOUR, BROOKE	OES/911	31

Information regarding employee anniversaries and birthdates is provided by Human Resources the prior year (i.e. 2026 was provided in 2025). So if an employee name is on the list that has retired or resigned, please disregard. Also, typos happen! Please let me know if a name is spelled wrong and a correction will be included next month! For employees who leave the city and come back in a different capacity or department, your length of service may change as well. Example, I worked in the Mayor's Office 10 years, then was elected City Clerk.

I have been in the City Clerk's Office 25 years. My total service with the city is 35 years.

*If this scenario applies to you, please **email me at least one month before the month of your anniversary month** so I can include your total service to the City of NLR!*

Diane (Dwhitbey@nlr.ar.gov)

May Anniversaries

Name	Dept	Date	Name	Dept	Date
SCALES, CASSANDRA	1st Court	1	RAMIREZ, KATHERYN	IT	7
DERRICK, ZACHERY	Electric	3	YIELDING, CHRISTINA	Legal	26
WILLIAMS, LINDA	Electric	19	COOPER, BEAU	Neighborhood Srv	5
DUCKERY, KRASTAL	Electric	19	STRONG, DARIAN	OES/911	8
COBB, TREY	Electric	2	KING, ERICA	OES/911	9
MELTON, DAVID	Electric	17	ANDERSON, CYNTHIA	OES/911	4
RATTAY, MATTHEW	Electric	4	CHAPERON, BRITTANY	OES/911	6
REEVES, COBY	Electric	1	WILSON, ELIZABETH	OES/911	1
TARKINGTON, SANDRA	Electric	19	BELL JR, ODELL	Parks Maint	4
WILLIAMS, BRIANNA	Electric	1	CANADY, CASEY	Parks Maint	4
USSERY, EBBIE	Electric	37	LARRY, WILLIAM	Parks Maint	7
JOHNSON, ANDREW	Electric	14	PENNINGTON, FREDRICK	Parks Maint	4
HEAD, CLARK	Electric	7	GOTELL, ISAAC	Parks Maint	4
STAGGS, SAVANNAH	Engineer	1	MEANS, WILLIAM	Parks Maint	4
UNDERWOOD, JUSTIN	Engineer	2	LEWIS, JOSHUA	Parks Maint	10
GUZILAN, ABIGAIL	Finance	1	ELLIS, TSHOMBEA	Parks Maint	2
LEHMAN, JUSTIN	Fire	3	CUNNINGHAM, JENNIE	Parks Rec	31
ALMON, WARREN	Fire	32	PHIFER, LAFRANCIS	Parks Rec	23
ETHERINGTON, ANDREW	Fire	4	BEARD, FLOYD	Parks Rec	8
HOFFMAN, ADAM	Fire	4	ALANIZ, KAREN	Police	4
DESIDERIO, ANTHONY	Fire	3	MODDRELL, LINDA	Police	9
DOERPINGHAUS, ALAN	Fire	3	GATES, COLLIN	Police	5
CHRISTIAN, ZACHARY	Fire	3	NEWBERRY, DAWN	Police	5
MANN, DAVID	Fire	3	SCOTT, JEFFREY	Police	5
MAULDIN, JORDAN	Fire	2	AKINS, DWIGHT	Sanitation	1
MYERS, KYLE	Fire	4	NEWTON, VINCENT	Sanitation	7
WARD, REBECCA	Fire	3	LEGGS, PRISCILLA	Senior Center	1
BRICKLEY, TRENT	Fire	3	HARRIS, CHARLES	Street	15
RALSTON, JOSEPH	Golf	12	INGRAM, TERRENCE	Street	5
VANGILDER, MICHAEL	Golf	2	BROCK, KENNY	Vehicle Maint	34

Special Contracts to all of our employees with 20 years or more! We appreciate your longevity, commitment and knowledge! Congrats to every else! We appreciate you being part of Team NLR and can't wait to see you all make your 20 year anniversary!

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Our North Little Rock city employees are the best of the best! They are encouraged to do their best every day!

We encourage our folks to take care of issues they see or report them to the appropriate city department to be resolved.

Our city is over 60 square miles. Our team members can't be everywhere or see everything.

That's where every one else can help!

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Here are a few examples:

Abandoned vehicle, stray, injured or deceased animal,

criminal act (reckless driving/unsafe driving, trespassers), door to door solicitors who are unable to produce a current NLR permit, unlicensed business (trees service, roofers, subscription sales, produce, etc.) street light out, potholes, overgrown lot, nuisance property, concern for a neighbor or friend (well fair check), missed trash/recycling pickup, litter.

If you have a concern or question regarding a city employee or city department regarding services provided, please reach to our Administrative Office 501-975-8601.

Together, we will continue to keep North Little Rock a great place to live, work and play!



Great North Little Rock Cleanup

May 2, 2026

8:00 - 11:00 AM

Help make your city clean and beautiful!

You provide the team and location, we provide the supplies!

Door Prizes
Lunch Provided

Celebration Party
11:30 am - 12:30 PM
Patrick Henry Hays Center
401 Pershing Blvd

Individual or Team Sign Up at
knlrb.org
or 501-350-8775

KEEP NORTH LITTLE ROCK Beautiful



Scan to sign up

...continued from page 5

Constant notifications—48% of workers are interrupted by a notification every 30 minutes, and 45% of these notifications aren't relevant to their jobs.

Our reliance on digital tools to complete our work means we're juggling dozens of apps and tabs simultaneously. Slack, social media, a project manager, email, calendar, analytic tools, databases — our workflow is littered with software — and it comes with a lot of noise.

AI is an obvious solution many companies are exploring. According to Unily's Digital Noise Impact report, 62% of employees believe AI can help them prioritize workplace notifications. Unily is looking at building an intranet super-app that consolidates and organizes your notifications.

Social media temptations—15% of workers admit to losing three to five hours daily to smartphone notifications and social media feeds. The lure of social media and 'just checking' what's happening make platforms like Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok a quick escape that derails productivity.

Social media is designed to hook us — but beyond that, the curiosity around an unresolved notification carries mental weight. That cognitive mental load can lead to low-level anxiety, mental clutter, more procrastination, and less productivity.

Aside from the obvious strategies, like monitoring usage, activating "do not disturb" mode, turning off notifications, or deleting the apps themselves, companies can take more systemic and proactive approaches to combat this.

In an interview with People Management, managing director of Executive Connexions Steve Nicholls, suggests, "Foster a workplace culture that respects personal boundaries and encourages regular digital detoxes," adding: "Leaders should model these behaviors, showing that it's okay to disconnect from digital tools to concentrate on important tasks."

Multitasking—has the same effect on your brain as interruptions — research has shown humans can't really do it. That's because switching tasks drain focus and increases errors (in fact, studies show it takes longer to complete tasks when multitasking). Instead, train yourself to maintain focus on a single task to deliver high-quality, error-free work.

...continued on page 13...



BURNS PARK SPLASH PAD SUMMER HOURS

From May 1st to May 21st, open
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

After May 25th, open EVERY DAY
from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM!

NORTH LITTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION • NLRPR.ORG • @CITYOFNLRPARKS

Beginning May 1st to 21st, the Burns Park Splash Pad will be open from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

After May 25th, the Splash Pad will be open daily from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

The Funland Train will run on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the top of every hour.

Come cool off and have fun this summer in North Little Rock!

...continued from page 12...

Cluttered workspaces—Have you ever felt like you just can't think in a messy space? There's neuroscience to back that up.

Our brains like order and predictability. When visual clutter exists, the disorder competes for your attention. This means messy spaces can significantly reduce your ability to focus. Even something as simple as devoting five minutes to organizing your things and clearing away any mess could help you finish your project faster.

Conduct a declutter ritual at the end of your workday. That way, you'll send a signal to mind and body that the workday is over and your brain has permission to switch gears into non-work mode!

North Little Rock City Offices will be closed, Monday, May 25, 2026
in observance of **Memorial Day**.

The **City Council Meeting** scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2026 **will be held TUESDAY May 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Garbage and trash pickup will be delayed one-day all week
(i.e., Monday's pickup will be on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday and so on...)

You're Invited!

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of an exciting new chapter!

atg Pavilion

Ruth and Scott Landers

DATE

Monday, May 11, 2026

TIME

2:00PM-2:30PM

LOCATION

Argenta Plaza, 510 Main Street,
North Little Rock

This special event

marks the official start of construction for the atg Pavilion. The Pavilion represents a gathering place - one that brings residents and visitors together through shared experiences.

Its performances and events

will generate increased foot traffic, support local businesses, and reinforce North Little Rock as a hub for arts and entertainment.

The atg Pavilion

will be the home to twenty-one busts of Arkansas artists who were the foundation of music as we know it today. Artists such as Johnny Cash, Al Green, Glen Campbell, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and Levon Helm will be represented and their stories told for future generations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome Remarks
- Guests Speakers
- Ceremonial Groundbreaking
- Light Refreshments



We would be honored by your presence as we break ground and look ahead to what's to come.





SAPLING

SUMMER CAMP 2026

<u>SESSION I</u>	<u>SESSION II</u>	<u>SESSION III</u>
JUNE 1-JUNE 19	JUNE 22-JULY 10	JULY 13-JULY 31
\$85.00	\$80.00	\$80.00

Sibling discounts available under the same household account.

Must submit copy of school report card for verification by May 29th

Current NLRPR membership is required. NLR Residents-\$15; Non Residents-\$20

Early Registration

\$225 for all 3 camp sessions if paid in full by **May 22, 2026**.

**Does not include Mini Skills Camps*

Youth entering 1st-8th grades Fall 2026

www.nlrpr.org

MINI SKILLS CAMPS

AUGUST 3-7

BASKETBALL CAMP (GVCC)

CHEER & DANCE CAMP (NHCC)

CHESS CAMP (SPCC)

CULINARY CAMP (RCCC)

\$45.00

BAM!
SUPER FUN!
SUPER CHARGED!
SUPER SUMMER!

North Little Rock City employees are once again participating in the THV11 Summer Cereal Drive. City department teams will compete for the opportunity to say their team(s) brought in the highest number of boxes. If you want to help, drop off boxes at any of the listed city departments below. Every box is counted 1 time...every dollar is also counted 1 time! For more information contact Dr. Arnessa Bennett, Director of Special Projects at 501-975-3737 or email abennett@nlr.ar.gov.



Goal 5,000 Boxes of Cereal and or Dollars
2026 Team Captains for the City of North Little Rock
Last day to turn in Cereal or money is June 26 at noon.

Team 1 Captain Betty Anderson:
*City Services * City Hall * NLR Chamber * Information Services*
** Neighborhood Services * Airport*

Team 2 Captain Lana Gregory:
Electric

***The 2025 WINNER* Team 3 Captain Deidra Devine:**
*Parks * Traffic * Safety * Hays Senior Center*

Team 4 Captain Officer Shay Cobbs:
*Police * Courts*

Team 5 Captain Antiqudra Clayton & Cynthia Anderson:
*Fire * Emergency Services*

Team 6 Captain Felicia McHenry:
*Street * Sanitation * Code * Animal Shelter * Vehicle Maintenance*

Team 7 Captain Kevin Nelson:
*Laman Library * Argenta Library * Tourism*

Dr. Arnessa Bennett, Director of Special Projects
Office: 501-975-3737 Email: ABennett@nlr.ar.gov