

North Little Rock Neighborhood News 2017



Volume 22 / Number 3 May/June

Office of Neighborhood Services / P.O. Box 5757 / No. Little Rock, AR 72119
Office: (501) 791-8500 / Email: NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov



Governing & Budgeting 101 Transparency in North Little Rock

Governing a city that is more than one hundred years old with aging infrastructure can be challenging financially. The City's budgeting is an open process with several public hearings held each year, the City Council and Mayor discussing the budget in Council meetings, and copies of the annual budget available to interested parties. As a continuation of the transparency the City undertakes when budgeting, we will be running a series of articles on the financial challenges facing our city. While discussing the budget may be considered dry and not very entertaining, few things are more important or have a bigger effect on the quality of life for our citizens than the fiscal health of our City.

In the most recent State of the City report by Mayor Smith, he pointed out "Over the past ten years our annual revenue has increased by less than 1 percent. In effect we are bringing in the same amount of money as we were 10 years ago. Our expenses have increased by nearly 36 percent in the same time period."

"Our expenses go up even if we do not expand our services. The cost of a replacement garbage truck increases every year even if it picks up the same amount of garbage. Employee health insurance, police cars and fire trucks, the price of asphalt for fill potholes, are all expenses that increase even if we provide the exact same service to the community year after year."

The City Administration has worked hard at being fiscally sound. From more than ten million dollars in debt in 2013, we have paid that debt down to less than two and a half million dollars today. Changes in collections by the Sanitation Department alone saved the city \$500,000 annually. The majority of the budget for the City is personnel. 73% of our total budget is spent on employees.

Our reserve fund, the savings account for the City, is healthy right now. Unfortunately we had to transfer more than two million dollars from the reserve fund into operations to balance the 2017 budget. Transfers will continue to be necessary to continue to provide a balanced budget every year as required by law. This will be unsustainable in the future. Projections predicting a 1% increase in revenue and a 2% increase in expenses show the Reserve Fund would be totally depleted at the end of two years.

Next month we will look at what will happen if we do nothing, and what options we have for improving the fiscal health of our City.



North Little Rock Jump Start Coalition

VISION: Thriving Park Hill and Levy communities where people want to live, work, and play.

MISSION: To engage the community through communication and collaboration, and encourage investment to develop a welcoming, walkable, and economically thriving Park Hill and Levy.

- Focus on improvements in the Park Hill and Levy neighborhoods related to walkability, safety, health, and economic development
- **Meet on the first Thursday of every month at the NLR Community Center at 2700 Willow from 6 – 7 pm**
- All are welcome and invited to participate
- Website and newsletter sign up: www.nlr.ar.gov/jumpstart
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Jumpstartmycity/>
- **2017 Priority Projects (looking for more individuals, businesses, and groups to help plan, sponsor, and/or participate):**
 - **Bike Day / Bike Rodeo**
 - **Walkability workshop around Ridge Road Elementary**
 - **Business connections to the Levy Trail**
 - **5k walk/run race**
 - **Halloween event on Levy Trail**
 - **Infrastructure for Levy Tail, such as signage, benches, trash cans, bicycle repair stations**
 - **Neighborhood surveys and data collection to determine future priorities**
 - **Updates to the NLR Bicycle Master plan to reflect: desire for a four park connector trail in Park Hill, connectivity between Park Hill trail, Levy trail, and other area trails**
 - **Ongoing community input and engagement regarding engineering designs for the Jump Start project areas (Park Hill – JFK Blvd from Crestview Dr to Lookout Rd; Levy – Camp Robinson Rd and Pike Ave from 33rd St to 37th St). Stay tuned for information regarding upcoming public meetings!**
- Actively seeking new partnerships and collaborations, especially in the African American and Hispanic communities in Park Hill and Levy
- Would love to partner with the faith community, property owners, business owners, renters, homeowners, real estate agents, lending institutions, artists, property developers, youth groups, food entrepreneurs, and community organizations

Please contact Jenna Rhodes, Program Coordinator, at jdrhodes@nlr.ar.gov for more information or to get involved





North Little Rock
Neighborhood News is a
bi-monthly publication.
Please note the
following deadlines
for information to be
published:

Issue	Deadline Date
July/August 2017	June 1
Sept/Oct 2017	August 1
Nov/Dec 2017	October 1

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.

**To report
potholes or
street damage in
your neighborhood.**

Call NLR Street
Department at
340-5356,
or use the new
North Little Rock
Report & Repair App!



North Little Rock Friends of Animals Upcoming Events

Rummage Sale
4001 Lakeshore Drive
May 5 / 7:00 am open all day
May 6 / 7:00 am until 12 noon
Rain Date May 12 & 13

Dog Wash
Hollywood Feed
5235 JFK Blvd.,
May 20 \ 10 am until 2 pm

Dog Wash
Hollywood Feed
5235 JFK Blvd.,
June 17 \ 10 am until 2 pm

Healthy Active Arkansas

The sun is shining, the weather is getting warmer, and your neighborhood associations are motivated to keep your community a happy, healthy place to live!

The **City of North Little Rock** and the **Arkansas Department of Health's Central Region Hometown Health Improvement** section want to help YOU plan and accomplish health-related improvements to your neighborhood.

Need ideas? A great place to start is the *Healthy Active Arkansas* plan that Governor Hutchinson announced in October 2014. Visit www.healthyactive.org.

The only way to see a positive difference in your neighborhood is if YOU are involved. Any contribution, big or small, is extremely helpful. To find out how you can make something happen to better the health of your neighborhood, contact your Neighborhood Association President or attend your next Neighborhood Association meeting listed in this newsletter.

Contact Christianna Braddix at Hometown Health Improvement at (501) 249-0274 for more information.

Follow North Little Rock Neighborhoods on Facebook. The following neighborhoods currently have pages:



- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Amboy | Lakewood |
| Argenta | Levy |
| Baring Cross | Meadow Park |
| Dark Hollow | Park Hill |
| Dixie Addition | Rose City |
| Faulkner Crossing | Scenic Hill |
| Glenview | Sherman Park |
| Holt | Stone Links |
| Indian Hills | |



Questions? Contact the Following

All meetings are evening meetings unless otherwise noted.

Amboy Crime Watch

Thursday, 6:00
Bimonthly - months of
Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.
Amboy Methodist Church
311 Military/Mary Ann Conley 758-1208

Amboy Neighborhood Assn.

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30
Burns Park Hospitality House
corner of Military Drive & Joe Poch Rd.
Jonathan Chamblee, (502) 321-9617
jnc@atw-photo.com

Argenta Community Development Corporation Board

Every 4th Thursday, 5:30
500 West 13th Street, 374-0622.

Argenta Neighborhood Boosters

Every 3rd Thursday, 6:00
NLR Heritage Center, 506 Main Street
Terri Imus, 920-7371

Baring Cross Neighborhood Assn.

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
ACTS Church, 13th & Franklin Sts.
Harlan Hunter, 541-1591

Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation

Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:30
1400 Pine Street
Belinda Burney, 376-8144

Dixie Addition Community Development Corporation

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
914 "H" Street
Lee A. (Buck) Jeffrey, 240-5376
buckj@att.net

Glenview Neighborhood Association

Every 1st Tuesday, 7:00
Glenview Rec. Ctr, 4800 E 19th St.
Ronald Hollis, Jr., 993-7170

Hillview Village Apartments Neighborhood Watch

Every 2nd Tuesday, 5:30
Hillview Village Apt. Clubhouse
Lynn Goodson, 758-0011

HOLT Neighborhood Association

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30
Gardner Memorial United Methodist
Kim Burgess, 812-9807

Indian Hills Neighborhood Association/Crime Watch

Every 2nd Tuesday, 6:30
North View MBC, 6801 JFK Blvd.
Stephen Whiting, 425-1942

Keep North Little Rock Beautiful

Every 2nd Tuesday, 5:30
NLR Visitors Bureau, Burns Park
Randy Naylor, 350-8775 or
Lisa Smith, 791-2568; KNLRB@aol.com
or www.Facebook.com/KNLRB

Lakewood Community Watch

Tap Pace, 416-0747

Meadow Park Neighborhood Assn.

Every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00
Bethany Baptist Church
308 Eureka Gardens Road
Evelyn Creal, 945-2870

Melrose Outreach

Every 3rd Wednesday, 7:00
Melrose Grocery, 807 Willow St.
Margo Tenner, 372-3810 or 374-7842

Military Heights

Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30
North Little Rock Community Center

NAACP

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00
Bethel AME Church, 600 Cedar Street
Deborah Rhodes, Ph: 351-9558

Neighbors United for Levy

Every 1st Monday, 6:30
North Heights Recreation Ctr, 4801 Allen
Jennifer Johansen, 771-0520

North Little Rock CPA Alumni

3rd Tuesday in February, May, August
& November, 6:30
Downtown Police St., 8th & Main Streets
Curtis Gatewood, Jr., 258-1821

North Little Rock Friends of Animals

Every 2nd Tuesday, 6:30
North Little Rock Community Center
Joy Stevens, 758-5482

North Little Rock Landlords Assn.

Every 3rd Monday, 7:00
NLR Community Ctr, 2700 Willow St.
Gail Blucker, 835-6679

Park Hill Neighborhood

1st Tuesday, 6:00
Location: Idlewild Park Historic Building
Intersection of D, North Cedar & Plainview
John Gregan, 758-7159
johngregan@att.net
<http://www.historicparkhill.com>
<http://groups.google.com/group/parkhill>

Ridge Road Village Neighborhood Watch

Every 4th Thursday, 5:00
4748 Ridge Road
Michelle Johnson, 771-7500

Rose City Neighborhood Association

Every 3rd Monday, 7:00
Rose City Police Substation
Dennis Fisk, 519-2789

Scenic Hill Neighborhood Association

2nd Thursday, 7:00
January, March, June & September
Alice Kunce, (573) 353-2270 or
Carol Crow, 753-9044

Sertoma Club of North Little Rock

Every Wednesday, 12:00 noon
Newk's on Warden Road

Sherman Park Neighborhood

Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
8th St. Baptist Church
Corner of Hickory & SA Jones Sts.

Stone Links Neighborhood Association

Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:00
Stone Links Golf Course Clubhouse
Willie C. Thomas, 612-2503

Willow Beach Neighborhood Association

2nd Tuesday in March & October, 6:30
Church at Willow Beach
John Santoro, 607-1755



**City of North Little Rock
City Hall 300 Main Street**

Elected Officials

Mayor Joe Smith 975-8601
City Clerk, Diane Whitbey 975-8617
City Attorney, Jason Carter ... 975-3755

Aldermen

Ward 1

Debi Ross 753-0733
Beth White 758-2738

Ward 2

Linda Robinson 945-8820
Maurice Taylor 690-6444

Ward 3

Steve Baxter 804-0928
Ron Harris 758-2877

Ward 4

Murry Witcher 835-0009
Charlie Hight 994-0670

NLR Neighborhood News

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Office Hours-

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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2018

Jan/Feb 2018	December 1
March/April 2018	February 1

**Visit
North Little Rock
City Government
at www.nlr.ar.gov**

**2017 Recycling
Weeks**



**May 14 & 28
June 11 & 25
July 9 & 23
August 6 & 20
September 3 & 17
October 1, 15 & 29
November 12 & 26
December 10 & 24**

**Put your bins to the curb by
7:00 a.m. the day of your
regular household garbage
pick up. Put them away by
8:00 a.m. the next day.**

**Recycling Questions? Call
Waste Management at (501)
565-0191.**

**North Little Rock
City Meetings**

NLR Airport Commission
3rd Thursday, 12:00 pm
120 Main Street, Room A
City Services Building

City Council Meetings
2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00 p.m.
NLR City Hall, 300 Main Street

**Planning Commission
Sign Board**
2nd Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
120 Main St., 2nd floor, west end

Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday, 4:45 pm/300 Main St.

History Commission
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm/506 Main St.

Historic District Commission
2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
506 Main St.

**Parks & Recreation
Commission**
3rd Monday, 5:00 pm
2700 Willow St.

City Beautiful Commission
3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m.
4601 Fairway Avenue

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

**Planning Commission
Board of Adjustment & Appeal**
Last Thursday of each month,
1:30 p.m.
120 Main St., 2nd floor, west end



Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center Diaper Drive

Beginning Mother's Day through Father's Day

Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center use to be Crisis Pregnancy center of Central Arkansas. Is a faith based, non-profit that has existed for 31 years in North Little Rock. Helping anyone through unplanned pregnancies. Teaching over 1,000 parenting education classes last year call Earn While You Learn. The mothers and fathers can take a one hour class and earn "mommy bucks" and "daddy bucks". They can use their "bucks" to "buy" diapers and wipes along with baby clothes, shoes and many other needed items each week. Thousands upon thousands of diapers are given away through the Earn While You Learn program every year.

Your donations are needed. Anyone can drop off diapers at any of the 11 NLR Fire Departments beginning Mother's Day, May 14 through Father's Day June 18.

Station No.	Location
Station 1	723 Maple St.
Station 2	3700 E. Broadway St.
Station 3	1500 Schaer St.
Station 4	8723 Maumelle Blvd.
Station 5	3417 Magnolia St.
Station 6	3500 Camp Robinson Rd.



Station No.	Location
Station 7	2401 McCain Blvd.
Station 8	6550 MacArthur Dr.
Station 9	2309 Osage Dr.
Station 10	8800 Highway 70 East
Station 11	9906 Baucum Pike



PATIO on PARK HILL

Thursday, May 25th \ 5-9 pm

**Lakehill Shopping Center
on JFK in North Little Rock!**

Enjoy amazing cuisine from local food trucks!

Have fun visiting and purchasing items from local vendors and businesses!

Listen to live music on the Dogtown Stage and enjoy live acoustic music in the beer garden!

Entry fee is \$1, kids 12 and under are free.

Proceeds benefit the Park Hill Business & Merchants Association
which is helping to grow and enhance the Park Hill Community.

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



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Department of Neighborhood Services
P.O. Box 5757
North Little Rock, AR 72119-5757

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