



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 12/11/2024

East Little Rock & Stephens Community Centers

These centers are under renovations and will be updated with flooring, lights and an overall brighter look. Stephens is still having their youth programs in collaboration with the school for their after-school program and other community centers for their sports practices.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center

In November, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center introduced a new aquatic class, Youth and Teen Aquatic Fit Class. Our Youth & Teen Swim Fit class is designed to help young swimmers, ages 10 through 17, develop their swimming skills while improving strength, endurance, and overall fitness. This high-energy class is perfect for those looking to enhance their technique, work on their stamina, and build confidence in the water.

The Centre at University Park

The Centre pull together as a team to make everything a smoother process is even better. They had their regular meetings such as NUSA, Age Friendly and Work Order. Most of all it was wonderful hosting the Parks STAT this month, seeing 48 of our directors, leaders and overseers was great to witness. We had fun, food and fellowship while taking care of and covering business.

MacArthur Museum of Military History

Attendance for the film program this year is 627, breaking last year's record attendance of 517. Staff unveiled the schedule for the 2025 season at the event which is also posted on the museum website.

<https://www.littlerock.gov/residents/parks-and-recreation/directory/macarthur-museum-of-arkansas-military-history/upcoming-events/2025-movies-at-macarthur/>

Outdoor Recreation

The November 16th, "Squatch Till You Drop" trail running event held at Allsop Park had 75 participants and was covered by Channel 7 and the Democrat Gazette. A survey was sent to all participants and the responses were all very positive.

First-Tee Golf

On Veterans Day, we did twilight rates all day long and to show our appreciation to veterans, all veterans got to pay for free that day. The historical marker was put up on the site where the original Concordia Country Clubhouse was, and the area has been landscaped.

Rebsamen Tennis

USTA League Combo State tournament Nov 1-2 (150 players). Monday night Rebsamen Doubles league finished its 25th year in November (will start again in March). Monday night Rebsamen Singles league still going through end of year (10-12 courts each week).



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Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program and basketball. Our programs have remained steady in attendance and revenue. Participants in each program have the opportunity to receive instruction from our on-hand instructors and learn the value of each recreational program.

Youth Basketball Program

Practice continued the month of November; we did not practice over thanksgiving break. We have teams in all divisions. During the thanksgiving break youth attended the community during the day and enjoyed free play in the gym. Staff took down Thanksgiving décor and put up Christmas décor.

Election

We were a voting precinct for early voting and general election. We saw an increase of visitors during that time.

Improvements

Parking lot was restriped. Old paint that was peeling at the front entrance was scraped and a new coat was painted.

Stephens Community Center

Star Student Afterschool Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program is growing. We are at 94%. We also getting ready for our Christmas Program for the month of December.

Youth Sports Program:

Stephens have a total of (4) four teams for Basketball. We have a 3–4-year-old, K-1st grade, 2-3 grade, and 4-5 grade. We have started practicing at Dunbar and West Central Community Centers until our building is ready. Registration is still open, and participant are signing up for Youth Basketball.

Facility Vacancies:

2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time Custodians or 1 full-time.

Maintenance:

Renovations for the building are going well. Painting is in full bloom; floors are being worked on and other plans are in the works. Gym floor and classrooms are almost ready.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

West Central has approximately 80 participants for basketball season thus far. Registration ends December 1st. We have cheerleaders in our first year of doing this sport. There has been a skills and drills camp for basketball participants the entire month of November. And Cheer practice twice per week. We also are helping Stephens with space/time for their youth basketball to practice.

Karate/Dance: The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 25 participants. Both are growing every month. Dance is preparing for winter dance recital.

West Central CC:

We hosted a Family movie night for the community on November 15th. We had 10 participants. We are partnering with Housing and Neighborhood Programs in a Winter Coat Drive. We are hosting Parkview girls' basketball team for practice twice per week. Human Resources has had two monthly mid manager training meetings in the classroom.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 6 rentals for the month.

Maintenance:

Our air conditioning unit was having problems switching to heat this year, but the problem is being resolved. The vents on the roof for the kitchen will be replaced in the next week.

Employment:

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant and evening front desk receptionist to hire.

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: The afterschool Star Student Program enrollment numbers remain low, but we hope to see the increase once the afterschool transportation Pilot program has been approved. The Jr. Botanist program remains to grow continuing to educate our youth on the importance of trees and plants. Jr. Botanist meet every Thursday 6:00p.m. and Saturday 10:00a.m. Our weekly Art program is continuing to grow with a consistent 15-20 participants attending every Wednesday 6:00p.m.

Youth Athletics: The volleyball season ended with a banquet celebration for the athletes and parents. Food was served and medal were giving to each team member. For fun the parents played a volleyball game against youth athletes. As far as basketball teams we have 4 full teams practicing once a week, the goal is to have at least 7 teams registered by the beginning of the season.

Adult Athletics: We are advertising and looking to host beginner's pickle ball clinics and chair volleyball in the mornings. Dance workout is held every Tuesday and Thursday 6pm-7pm averaging 25 participants regularly. We now offer low impact senior workout via video in which the numbers have grown to 15 participants aging from 50+.

Special Events: Every Wednesday night is community Art night. After the Art is completed, a display is placed in the lobby for guest and members to observe. The ACT prep classes will start up again in March collaborating with Pulaski County Youth Services, we look to serve at least 200 youth during this program. On November 15, 2024 we partnered with the city of Little Rock Human resources and Mayor office to host a job fair in which we had over 250 participants attend. On November 28, 2024, ministries community church along with Southwest Community center be hosting a soulful gathering from 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m. we look to feed the less fortunate and donate clothing during the two hours. Fall Fest is held for our youth beginning November 25, 2024, through November 29, 2024. Youth will have the opportunity to engage in arts and crafts projects led by staff, engage in recreation and sport activities led by staff and receive a meal during the time that they are on thanksgiving break. Construction at the facility will begin on December 6, 2024, focusing on remodeling the gymnasium, banquet hall and entrance area.

ELR Community Center

They have demolished the 3 trailers, old playground set and the building on the corner. Working on the roof, painting the rooms on the breezeway, installing lights in the gymnasium, filled the swimming pools with grinded rocks, and they will continue until the projects are completed. The neighborhood meetings have been cancelled due to the ongoing renovation project and has been moved the Community Park and First Baptist Church both located on East Ninth & Calhoun Street. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintained the hedges and mulched flower islands. Continuing to assist with Active & Aging program and attend various meetings as scheduled. Little Rock Police Department continue to use the back area/field for their dog training, as needed. AAU football has stopped practicing on the multi-purpose field due day light saving ending. The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 8 – 10 people. There is still some use of the field/park...daily/weekends, family gatherings, tennis court (hopefully to be refurbished as multi-use courts) for walking and playing matches, and other activities.

Senior Programs: Active and Aging

West Central had an AT&T iPad training on November 6 and they continue to be the best in bean bag baseball and chair volleyball leagues and tournaments. East Little Rock had the AmeriCorps Leadership team visit on November 7 and held their third annual Senior Thanksgiving dinner on November 22. Southwest had

a Medicare speaker on November 20. November birthday Celebrations were held, as well as other activities. They all continue to have visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. Dunbar had a flu shot clinic and food day with Baptist Health. They all also are continuing their outings, field trips, crafts, such as bottle flowers, jewelry, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, t-shirts, and coloring.

Dunbar Seniors: Coloring, String Jewelry, Bingo, Senior Circle, Walking, Connect Four, Dominoes and Line Dancing Class, Bean Bag Baseball, Chair Exercise Class, and Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screenings, Go Fish, Painting, and FUNDAY.

East Little Rock Seniors: Senior Fitness, Care Link workshop, Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Line Dance Class, Ceramics, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Uno Card Game, Jewelry Making, Funtastic Friday, Nutrition Class and Funtastic Friday.

Southwest Seniors: Bowling, movies, Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bingo, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Healthy Food Outreach, Arts & Crafts, Table Games, Ring Toss, Pool, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

West Central Seniors: Food Bank, Pickleball, Chair Volleyball and Bean Bag Baseball games vs. Various Centers (both teams), Bean Bag Baseball Practice (both teams), Bible Study, Birthday Shout Out.

Therapeutic Recreation

The month of November we had our Annual Therapeutic Recreation Thanksgiving Potluck/ Cooking class. Participants brought their recipe and ingredients and created a family style Thanksgiving meal with friends at Ottenheimer TR Center on November 21st. We had a workday at the Little Rock Zoo on November 14th. Our new program, Time Out for TR, took a trip to Mount Magazine on November 15th. This gave participants an opportunity to explore outside their community and add new areas of leisure interest and education to their life. The 11th Annual Therapeutics Recreation Christmas Program is scheduled for 7:00pm December 19th at the Fellowship Bible Church in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs Ministry. We will have a cast of 21 participants for this performance. The TR Branch Out group has been invited once again to decorate the tree at the Parks and Recreation office at City Hall. This event will take place on Dec. 5th. The TR Volunteer Crew will have their last workday of the season at the Little Rock Zoo on Dec. 12th. We will return to the zoo in March when the weather turns.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

In November 2024, the facility sold a total of 1,510 monthly memberships, marking an increase from the 1,303 memberships sold in November 2023.

FITNESS

The 17 fitness classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well.

AQUATICS

In November, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center introduced a new aquatic class, Youth and Teen Aquatic Fit Class. Our Youth & Teen Swim Fit class is designed to help young swimmers, ages 10 through 17, develop their swimming skills while improving strength, endurance, and overall fitness. This high-energy class is perfect for those looking to enhance their technique, work on their stamina, and build confidence in the water. Participants will focus on all four competitive strokes—freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly—while also incorporating conditioning exercises to improve cardiovascular health, flexibility, and muscular strength. Whether your swimmer is preparing for competition or simply wants to stay active and fit, Swim Fit provides a supportive and fun environment to achieve personal goals and boost athletic performance. The class attracted a total of 78 attendees for the month. The 6 aquatic classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

For the month of November, Baptist Health Community Outreach conducted a monthly blood pressure checks for our members and visitors, with a total of 16 individuals taking advantage of these services.

The Centre at University Park

The month of November was a great start to finishing the year out with a bang. Starting out with gearing up for a new year, the procurement team came into the month with training classes and open enrollment kicked off with an awesome start with 66 staff members taking care of their benefits for 2025. What a way to begin the month and seeing the staff here at The Centre pull together as a team to make everything a smoother process is even better. We had our regular meetings such as NUSA, Age Friendly and Work Order. Most of all it was wonderful hosting the Parks STAT this month, seeing 48 of our directors, leaders and overseers was great to witness. We had fun, food and fellowship while taking care of and covering business. The building is continuously being beautified and kept up; we got fresh mulch put down it's making the building stand out even more than before. We continue to grow and put our best foot forward here at The Centre at University Park.

Youth Athletics

Youth Basketball Season is the next activity, registration is going on at each location, the goal is to have at least 350 youth registered. They have also done skills & drills and are now into their team practices. Games sites will be determined later due to ongoing facility renovations. Registration is still open for cheerleading and basketball. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program

Field Rental reservations have stayed steady for the youth football league requesting ball field rentals with lights.

Adult Softball Program

Interstate Adult softball has ended for fall ball and registration for the spring league will begin January 15, 2025, for Men, women, coed and church league.

Summer Playground Program

We are working on making the summer playground program more enjoyable for the summer of 2025.

First Tee Golf

Is it summer or is it winter? Some days feel like summer some days, others feel like winter but as we keep a close eye on temperatures rising and dropping throughout the day and night, the leaves continue to fall on the golf course. This keeps our staff busy this time of year, keeping the golf course leave-free so golfers can have an enjoyable experience at our facility while playing the game of golf that they love without the risk of losing golf balls. Although we think this time of year would be slow, the warmer days have been keeping us busy, which is great for revenue. One of our goals for 2024 was to make over \$300,000 in revenue. We were able to reach that goal the second week in November. The increase in revenue has been continuing to fluctuate between 11% and 12 1/2% for the last three months, which means we are on a great path of growth and rounds for the year.

We were able to use the rest of the funding that was donated by the Jewish community for our historical site on the property. If you have not had a chance to look at this site, you should. Not only is it a wonderful piece of Arkansas history but it also involves golf.

On Veterans Day, we did twilight rates all day long and to show our appreciation to veterans, all veterans got to pay for free that day.

As we start to get into the colder months of the holiday season, the grass is slowly starting to go dormant. This does not slow down the golfers as they come out and enjoy and play the game that they love.

If you have not been to First Tee lately, I invite you to come out and check out the facility. Check out the golf course or stop in and say "Hi". Our staff is always here to greet you and to make you feel like you're at home.

Rebsamen Golf

We had over 60 ladies in attendance for our weekly lady's day for the month of November, it will be lower

since the weather is cooling down. Revenue for 2024 is still up 5% over 2023. Nike products has been approved to be ordered and will be stocked for 2025, in the pro shop. May have to cover greens sooner than normal, if the temperatures continue to fall and get to freezing. Looking to hire more staff in the beginning of the year.

Rebsamen Tennis

USTA League Combo State tournament Nov 1-2 (150 players). Monday night Rebsamen Doubles league finished its 25th year in November (will start again in March). Monday night Rebsamen Singles league still going through end of year (10-12 courts each week). Thursday night Rebsamen Doubles league finishes early December (1-2 courts, continuing to build). Raul and Janan fall junior development groups going strong and are year-round. Hired four new part time tennis aide positions, excited to have them on board. Working on filling out the 2025 tournament and league schedules.

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for November was 2,327. This total includes: (1) on-site visitation, (2) special events, (3) virtual programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, and (4) off-site programming and outreach. On-site visitation included 475 walk-in guests and 463 visitors to special events, tours, during the month. In addition to Arkansas, visitors came from 24 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington as well as from South Korea and the Netherlands. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 319 new views through November 25 for a total of 5,406 views for 2024. Off-site programming included 79 youth and parents at the "Corvettes and Veterans" outreach on November 10 at War Memorial Stadium. Total attendance for the first eleven months of 2024 is 40,656. Museum staff continues to present off-site programming to children at Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers as part of the museum's After School program. During November, 195 children received instruction through this weekly outreach. The museum has raised \$30,852 thus far in 2024, surpassing its goal of raising \$30,000 each year in donations, grants, and sponsorships with one month remaining in the year. Gift shop sales thus far in 2024 are approximately \$10,272. The museum worked with the MacArthur Park Group to host a public reception to unveil the five finalists in the design competition for a new shade structure for the MacArthur Unleashed dog park. A total of 106 persons attended the event during which a winning design was selected by those present. The winner was a design submitted by AMR Architects. The group will work with the Parks Department to raised funds for the shade structure. Attendance for the November 19 "Movies at MacArthur" film *Elvis and the USS Arizona* was 62. Attendance for the film program this year is 627, breaking last year's record attendance of 517. Staff unveiled the schedule for the 2025 season at the event which is also posted on the museum website.

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The museum hosted the Captain and crew members of USS *Arkansas*, a new Virginia-class submarine currently under construction in Newport News, VA, on November 8. The crew participated in interviews and a press conference at the museum. The November 9 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* featured an article on the event, which was also covered by Channels 4 and 16 news. A link is listed below.

[Vessel's captain drops by in state](#)

The museum participated in the second annual "Corvettes and Veterans" show at War Memorial Stadium on November 10. Museum staff joined with other local exhibitors to showcase the museum's programs as well as military memorabilia. Approximately 79 people visited the museum table to learn more about programming and exhibits. The museum continues to host *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon*, a traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO. The exhibit examines the atomic age and Cold War through two photographic essays that look at the offensive and defensive implications of nuclear war. It includes 40 photographic images and will remain through January 5, 2025. A historical marker commemorating the contributions of African American soldiers in the Civil War is scheduled for production this month at Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio. Once the marker has

been received the museum will coordinate its installation on the parade grounds behind the museum with a presentation by Mark Christ on the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The marker and a bench for the parade grounds behind the museum were both funded by David F. Gruenewald in memory of his father Felix Gruenewald.

Outdoor Recreation

Weekly Mountain bike and road bike rides have continued but attendance has decreased due to cooler temperatures and Day Light Savings. I will be transitioning to Saturday Road rides, once or twice a month and biweekly mountain bike rides. The November Disc Golf Pop-up at War Memorial on 11/24/24 was held in conjunction with a food drive to benefit Parks & Rec's Seniors programs. Prep work and planning for the Squatch Till You Drop trail running event took several weeks and involved: Course layout and marking, arranging for MEMS, securing donations (lunch was donated and prepared by the non-profit Central Arkansas Trail Alliance), monitoring and finalizing participant registrations, posting public notices signs and social media notices, securing volunteers (we had 15 volunteers who logged over 60 hours), coordinating Day-of set-up and other last minute details. It was a busy time but well worth it. The November 16th, "Squatch Till You Drop" trail running event had 75 participants and was covered by Channel 7 and the Democrat Gazette. A survey was sent to all participants and the responses were all very positive. To date, the event raised over \$3,500 in revenue. Winter programming planning is underway and will include day hikes, Dutch oven cooking classes, camping basics classes, A December Disc Golf Pop-up and collaborating with our Community Centers