



Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 12/13/2023

Active & Aging

The Active and Aging Seniors from Dunbar, East Little Rock, Southwest, and West Central each offer various arts and craft projects, exercise programs, play various games such as Skip-Bo, dominoes, phase 10, bingo, bean bag baseball, chair volleyball, pickle ball, pool, make jewelry, dance classes, etc. Baptist Health Outreach provide Free Screenings for Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and pulse reading once a month for Dunbar, Southwest and West Central Seniors. They had a great thanksgiving and are preparing for holiday events at each location.

East Little Rock

City of LR held their Parks & Recreation staff open health enrollment, Marathon Committee, neighborhood meetings, LR Police dog training on grounds and Estem Jr High girls and 6th grade boys basketball practices.

The Centre at University Park

The Centre had 25 Internal CLR bookings for the month of November of which 2 were a no show. November total revenue for the month of November \$0, Total attendance 930

All Community Center Locations

Youth basketball teams are practicing, league is scheduled to begin on Monday Jan. 8, 2024. Latch Key is working on holiday events. Stephens is working on their ugly sweaters, Southwest ACT Prep last session was Nov. 5, and Men basketball league ended this month, also. West Central Security issues in parking lot and with staff, LRPD was called and responded, now have security at this location.

Adult Athletics :

Interstate/All sop Park Program: Roads are back open at Interstate ball park. More updates to come in 2024. Adult Softball Program: Registration for spring Softball will begin February 1, 2024. Summer Playground Program: Planning for the 2024 Summer Playground program is ongoing. Southside Park: Sunset Tigers are set up to practice all the way up to December 16, 2023

Therapeutic Recreation

Caroling at the Zoo, and City Hall as well as decorating the Parks & Recreation Christmas tree. Also, the Annual Christmas Program “It’s a Very Merry Christmas” will be held on December 14, 2023 @ 7pm at Camp Aldersgate.

MacArthur Museum

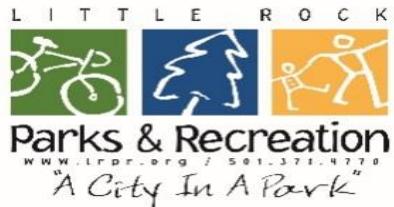
Still doing community center and school outreach programs and working on programs for 2024. Hosted “Movies at MacArthur”, “Silkies Hike”, and participated in “Corvettes and Veterans. They also, joined 140 museums around the world, including 38 museums in the U.S. to screen *The War to End All Wars – The Movie* and lots of other interesting events.

Golf/Tennis

-**Tennis:** USTA singles league in progress, held the National Level 4 USTA Team Event Juniors, and is a Southern Tennis Association 65 and over Sectional tourney (alternate site). **Golf:** Preparing for winter months and Rebsamen hosted our Ladies Golf Association Club Championship.

Outdoor Recreation

Facilitated 3 weeks of the Walk in the Park program. The program will take place in 6 different city parks and will continue until Dec 16th. Set a date for a collaborative program with The Orienteering of Central Arkansas club. We will be hosting a “Basics of map and Compass Skills” class on Dec 7th and Dec 10th. Also, met with several agencies for possible 2024 activities/events.



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No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!

Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy

- Therapeutic Recreation Programmer –waiting approval to hire
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- on hold
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – filled
- Aquatic Specialist- Filled thru promotion
- Museum Program Assistant- currently on staff
- Recreation Programmer- Senior- awaiting approval to advertise

Community Centers:

Stephens Community Center:

- The Latch-Key Program is doing well. We have planned an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party.
- Youth Basketball registration has ended. We have a total of six teams (68). Cheerleader are at capacity we have a total of 20. Practices are still on-going for both.
- We are working on getting job vacancies filled (1-Programmer, 1-Activity Assistants and 2-Part-Time Custodian).

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 two teams in the Pre-K, and one in the other co-ed divisions: K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th grade.
- During the thanksgiving break youth attended the community center during the day and enjoyed free play in the gym.
- Staff took down Thanksgiving décor and put up Christmas décor. Youth wanted to help and were allowed to assist staff with decorating.

West Central Community Center:

- **Youth Sports Program:** Basketball registration has ended. We have 180 participants for the program. We have started practicing to prepare for the season. There will be a skills and drills session for teams the second week in December. Reversible jerseys have been ordered for the season.

- **Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 15 participants. Our Karate team participated in this month's Community Fest. We had people to inquire about our program and looking forward to new participation.
- **Rentals:** West Central had 3 weekend rentals. 3 neighborhood meeting. We had Be Mighty come out and serve healthy meals to people and discuss healthy ways of eating. There were 8 participants at this event.
- **Maintenance:** We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month
- **Also:** There were two incidents to report on November 24th and November 27th. Both incidents have been written up and reported by the supervisor. We are looking forward to implementing new programs. We are still taking applications for our latchkey program. Our goal is to start with 10 participants. We have new participants joining our center daily. We have 25 participants trainer with our staff trainer and group exercise instructor.

Southwest Community Center:

- **Latchkey Afterschool Program:** The program age group range from 5-15. All participated are offered lunch Monday through Friday hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Afterschool program offers educational activities as well as tutorial opportunities. All youth are offered the opportunity to participate in weekly activities such basketball, pickle ball, volleyball and video game tournaments.
- **Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth basketball registration has closed with 50 plus male and female participants enrolled. Cheerleading registration is open and practices are held every Thursday from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The youth basketball clinic went very well. All participants played in an exhibition game allowing them to show off the skills they learned and everyone received a participation trophy.
- **Adult Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Men league Championship game was held on November 4, 2023. The league had 10 teams in which the runner up and league champions received trophies and medals. We are looking to host a Women basketball league during the winter months and a morning pickle ball beginner's clinic.
- **Special Events:** Southwest Community Center is in the process of cross training all staff to assure customer service, programs and special events are offered to the highest standards. Southwest Community Center ACT Prep Training last session for the year was held on Sunday November 5, 2023 from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m with approximately50 students participating. The goal was to register at least 15 participants per session and offer tutoring sessions in all areas of the ACT. Each session had students registered from 7th grade to 12th grade. November 27, 2023 first day student registration collaboration with LRSD. Parents have the opportunity to register their kids for school early. Registration will be held from November 27, 2023 through December 8, 2023. The Annual National Judo competition will be held December 15, 2023 through December 16, 2023 from 8:00am-5:00pm.

ELR Community Center:

- City of Little Rock held their open health enrollment here this month for parks employees and other city employees that wanted to enroll.
- LR Marathon held their committee meetings here in preparation for the event to be held in March of 2024.

- EStem Jr High girls continues their basketball practice Monday –Friday 3:45pm - 6:30pm and some Saturday as needed. The Sixth grade boys began this month they practice Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 – 7:15 pm.
- Little Rock Police Department utilized the back area/field for their dog training.
- Maintenance mulched leaves on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields as weather permits.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month and will continue meeting monthly, unless moved or cancelled by their president.
- The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 5 to 6 days per week, with about 5-7 participants.
- There is still some of use of the field/park...daily/weekends, celebrations, 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:

The Active and Aging Seniors from Dunbar Seniors, East Little Rock Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Senior each offer various arts and craft projects, exercise programs, play various games such as Skip-Bo, dominoes, phase 10, bingo, bean bag baseball, chair volleyball, pickle ball, pool, make jewelry, dance classes, etc. Baptist Health Outreach provide Free Screenings for Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and pulse reading once a month for Dunbar Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Seniors.

- Dunbar Seniors: Enjoying fellowship with one another by playing dominoes, Senior Circle (Bible Study), Baptist Health Outreach Monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screenings/Flu Shots, Art Projects, Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration was enjoyed by all.
- East Little Rock Seniors: Baptist Health Monthly Screening provided along with their flu shots, Ceramic class working on Christmas Projects, Mind Bending Sessions, Silver Foxes Dance Class, Chair Exercises, Funtastic Fridays with Bingo and Birthday/Thanksgiving Celebration at Barnhill Restaurant was a smacking good time!!!!
- Southwest Seniors: Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, pool challenge, played Skip-bo, card games, Christmas Art Project , chair exercise, bean bag baseball, enjoyed Bible Study, Baptist Outreach Screenings /Flu Shots along with Fruit and Veg. Outreach Program, art projects, Birthday /Thanksgiving Celebration, Thanksgiving BINGO, ring toss game, chair exercise, senior bowling and Bingo Fridays.
- West Central Seniors: Competing in Pickleball and Chair Volleyball with Hayes Center, Jacksonville Center, Conway Center and with each other, both teams of Bean Bag Baseball (Badgers and Blazers) are participating in the Fall League against various site around the state, Congratulation to the Badgers for being Undefeated, Badgers won 4th Place in the Todd Bean Bag Tournament , Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screens for blood pressure and blood sugar
- Enjoyed Thanksgiving Week!!!!!!

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre had 25 Internal CLR bookings for the month of November of which 2 were a no show.
- November total revenue for the month of Novenber \$0
- Total attendance 930

Meetings

- LR City Agenda/ Board
- LR Human Resources C.S hearings

- LR Planning Dept.
- NUSA
- LR Parks Commission
- LR Parks Work Order
- LR Parks Age Friendly Commission
- LR Directors Budget Board Meeting
- LRP Senior Renovation Meeting
- LRTV Board of Director Season Greeting Recording

Therapeutic:

- The Therapeutic Recreation Division is in full holiday swing.
- We had to cancel our annual Thanksgiving event. This event would have taken place on November 16th. We are also preparing for the 11th Annual Christmas program which includes a full scale play production. The participants are the actors and we will work on costumes, sets, scripts, etc. This is an evening event and is scheduled on Thursday, Dec. 14th. There are typically over 100 friends and family in attendance.
- Sherrie Shinn, TR Coordinator, attended the Therapeutic Recreation Symposium for the Southwest November 6-8. This conference took place at Scottish Rites Children's hospital in Dallas, Texas. Sherrie was a speaker at this conference and will be presenting on the uniqueness of the Little Rock Therapeutic Recreation Division and its programs. The discussion primarily consist of explaining and educating therapeutic recreation professionals about participant led programming and the role this plays in increasing quality of life for participants, as well as sharing the philosophies and approach in programming that has made the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Division stand out among other programs in central Arkansas and surrounding areas.

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History:

- Museum attendance for November was 3731. This total includes: (1) On-site visitation, (2) Special events, (3) Virtual Programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, 4) the on-line children's program "The Reading Brigade" and (5) off-site programming. On-site visitation was up 63% over November 2022 on-site attendance. Total attendance for 2023 has already surpassed 40,000 which is a record for the museum.
- Museum staff presented Afterschool programing in November at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers on a weekly basis, reaching 189 kids. Since the museum resumed Afterschool programming at the community centers in September, staff has presented programming to 300 students at Dunbar and 356 students at Stephens Community Centers. The museum also presented 21st Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy on a monthly basis, reaching 70 students. Total outreach to these two schools has been 155 in the past two months. Staff from the Clinton Presidential Center assisted with the off-site programming at the two 21st Century Program sites.
- "Movies at MacArthur" had a strong finish to 2023 with a screening of *The Gettysburg Story* on November 14 which 63 persons attended. The film program, which began in 2015, had its best year ever with 517 persons attending one or more of the eleven films on historical events and issues confronting veterans today. Films this year examined military conflicts including the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and Iraq/Afghanistan, as well as the role of African Americans and women in our military history.

- The museum participated in “Covettes and Veterans” at War Memorial Stadium on November 11. The event celebrated the 75th anniversary of the stadium and the 70th anniversary of the Corvette automobile. Approximately 150 persons visited the museum’s table which included military uniforms and other memorabilia. Representatives of the Jacksonville Museum of Military History and the Arkansas National Guard Museum joined in the event.
- The museum hosted participants of the “Silkies Hike” of the Irreverent Warriors, Little Rock group on Saturday, November 18. The group’s mission is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. The Silkies Hike is between 4-10 miles and limited to veterans, active duty, guard, and reservists only. Sixty participants in this year’s hike dropped by for a photo op and toured the museum’s galleries.
- The museum joined 140 museums around the world, including 38 museums in the U.S. to screen *The War to End All Wars – The Movie* on November 17 for students from Highland High School. The film was developed in partnership with Yarnhub Animation Studios and tells the story of World War I with music from the rock group Sabaton. It was designed to be screened exclusively by museums in the two weeks surrounding November 11, 2023, commemorating the 105th anniversary of Armistice Day. Sabaton, a Swedish heavy metal rock group whose albums focus on historical events, mainly wars and significant battles, has launched “History Rocks,” a worldwide museum project to encourage more people to visit local museums.
- The link below contains a portion of the movie about the Christmas Truce of December 1914.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSUclZ6Ma28>

- The museum has received a \$5,000 Museum Collections and Resources Grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council. The grant is available for museums with annual budgets of up to \$500,000 and can be used for collections management, conservation materials, etc. The funds will be used to purchase three dehumidifiers for the basement as well as archival supplies for the collection. The grant required no match from the applicant. The museum is on track to meet its fundraising goal of \$30,000 in outside funding through donations and grants to supplement City funding for museum programming.
- Working with Building Services and Marmic Fire and Safety, the museum was able to update the building’s sprinkler fire protection system to meet new federal guidelines. The building is fully sprinkled with a wet pipe system. Attic and porches are protected by a wet pipe glycol and water system. The cost for the project was approximately \$10,000 and was funded through Building Services
- Annika Larson has joined the museum as the new Museum Program Assistant. From Brownsville, Texas, she received her bachelor’s degree in History from Texas A&M in May of 2023, and specialized in post 1901 social and military history in the United States, while also focusing on the social and military history of the Nazis and the Soviets. Prior to her start at the museum, she interned with the Texas A&M History department’s partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and was an Education Intern with the national Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW). She was also a panelist at the “Never Forgotten: Conflict Archaeology and Military History” at Texas A&M University, and

presented 3 sessions at the National Museum of the Pacific War's "Summer Institute for Teachers."

- Upcoming events for December include:
 - "Science After Dark: Museum Tricks and Holiday Flicks" at Museum of Discovery, December 7, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 - "Brunch with Santa" at the Southwest Community Center, December 16, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Adult Athletics:

Interstate/All Sport Park Program: Roads are back open at Interstate ball park. More updates to come in 2024.

Adult Softball Program: Registration for spring Softball will begin February 1, 2024

Summer Playground Program: Planning for the 2024 Summer Playground program is ongoing

Southside Park: Sunset Tigers are set up to practice all the way up to December 16, 2023

Rebsamen Tennis:

- High School season and Middle School season now over
- 10/30 – 12/15 USTA singles league season in progress
- 11/3 – 11/6 National Level 4 USTA Team Event Juniors
- 11/10 – 11/11 Southern Tennis Association 65 and over Sectional tourney (alternate site)
- Ongoing – Men's and Women's Rebsamen leagues continue based on weather for that day
- Special Events done for the year due to holidays and weather
- New Assistant Manager, Rebecca Boland, has started and doing great
- In process to replace a few part time tennis aides (desk), high priority

JDFAC: Fitness /Aquatics

- All fitness classes are doing well with attendance.
- Toy hill was held here and it was a very big event with good turnout.
- The board approved the HVAC project
- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.

Rebsamen Golf:

- On November 6 and 7 the pumps were fully repaired so that we may return to utilizing well water for our irrigation system.
- On November 8 and 9 we will be hosting our Ladies Golf Association Club Championship. We should have 20-30 ladies competing in the Championship.
- Rebsamen Golf Course has no tournaments or events scheduled for the month of December. We are however in the process of completing some capital improvements by way of flooring and furniture replacement.

First Tee:

Winter is coming,

As we slowly start to wind down the golf season, we are already in the progress of getting ready for 2024. So far this month we have done a lot to maintain a great golf facility open to the public. From re-sodding some of the bare areas of the golf course which includes tee boxes, bare patches in the fairways, and even behind the clubhouse. We completed clearing out a lot of the brush area up by the #1 tee box and #8 tee box.

Along with doing the minor upgrades to the golf course, we are also continuing to advertise on the radio about our birthday party rental package, as well as our afternoon twilight play we offer every day. There have been an increase in play this year which increases the revenue.

We are looking forward to a great start to 2024 and the kick off for spring golf.

Outdoor Recreation:

- Visited an additional 10 of our city parks.
- Facilitated 3 weeks of the Walk in the Park program. The program will take place in 6 different city parks and will continue until Dec 16th.
- Set a date for a collaborative program with The Orienteering of Central Arkansas club. We will be hosting a “Basics of map and Compass Skills” class on Dec 7th and Dec 10th.
- Interacted with park users at War Memorial park and several other parks.
- Met with Affordable Trail Solutions at Boyle park to check on the progress of the trails project.
- Met with the chair of Friends of Fourche Creek to determine the viability of a project set for Boyle park. I set a brief along to Leland for approval.
- Worked with the organizers of a disc golf tournament at War Memorial and was present the day of the event to interact with participants. The event was a fund raiser for the local VFW. Based on strong public support for the event, I sent a proposal to Leland about adding disc golf to War Memorial park.
- Received approval for and purchased a mountain bike for leading cycling programs.
- Spoke Maurice Jackson, of AR Game and Fish, collaborate on fishing programs. A tentative plan has been set for a program in February, '24
- Spoke with Jesse Bocksnick, with Cooperative Extension, about a proposed Archery Range renovation at Rebsamen Park. James Short is the lead on the project.
- Began discussions with the race organizers of the Enduro event that took place in Oct, to work on plans for next year's event. No dates have been set.
- Began discussions with LifeQuest about possible collaboration in the Spring of '24
- Contacted NICA leadership about possible collaboration
- Contacted The Nature Conservancy about float trips on the Fourche Creek in Spring of '24