



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 3/13/2024

ALL LOCATIONS

Preparing for the upcoming eclipse by holding various lead-up activities from now until the actual eclipse day.

Active & Aging

Held Mardi Gras, Valentine, Black History, Milky Way Bingo, and Birthday celebrations. West Central seniors completed their CPR with MEMS.

East Little Rock

LR Marathon held their safety meetings in preparation for the event March 1 – 3, 2024.

The Centre at University Park

The Centre held 6 Internal CLR meetings and 5 other for the month of February the attendance was 882.

All Community Center Locations

Registering for spring sports/activities. Youth basketball leagues are having fun and competitive games and is nearing the end of the season. Latch Key Valentine, Black History programs.

Stephens held a youth “Super Bowl Batch”, Parents Night Out, and is working on their STEAM event for next month.

Golf First-Tee

U.S. Kids Tournament on Saturday, March 9th. This tournament brings over 100 youth and their families to central Arkansas from all over the state.

Tennis

USTA Team Tennis schedule has been released and booked for the spring season, 30+ teams using Rebsamen as home courts for USTA Team Tennis.

JDF &AC

Currently conducting a lifeguard training certification



Parks Commission – Recreation Report 3/13/2024

Stephens Community Center:

Afterschool Programs:

The Latch-Key Program is growing we're at 80%. For Black History, Amanda from The Old State House came out and did a FANTASTIC job with the kids and their quilt making activity. The Super Bowl, Parents Night Out and the Valentine Events were great.

Youth Sports Program

Youth Basketball and Cheerleaders Programs are doing very well. We are now getting kids registered for Soccer, Softball, Baseball and Track. Registration has started for our Men's League.

Facility Vacancies:

We are working on getting job vacancies filled (1-Programmer, 1-Activity Assistant, and 2-Part-Time Custodians).

Maintenance:

1. We are still waiting for work to be done on the Gym Floor and the Bleachers replaced.
2. Update to all areas of the Facility.
3. Columns at the front of the building are in desperate need of repair.
4. Signage for outside of building is needed.
5. Building needs a paint job.

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 could receive instruction from our on-hand instructors and learn the value of each recreational program. We held a Valentine party on Valentine's Day the youth really enjoyed.

Youth Basketball Program

Youth basketball continued to play this month; regular season wrapped up the last week of the month by playing make-up games from the snow days. Teams are preparing for tournament play next month.

Outdoor Youth Programs

In preparation for the eclipse, students went outside and did sidewalk chalk art drawings of the solar system.

West Central Community Center:

Youth Sports Program:

Basketball season has started. West Central has 3 games per night. All has be great. Only 3 forfeits for the season. We are entering playoffs and near the end of the season. We will start advertising for Summer playground program. We started flyer advertisement for spring sports. (Baseball & Soccer)

Karate/Dance: The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 15 participants. Both teams are preparing to perform at half time of the basketball games throughout the season. We are advertising to increase participation.

West Central CC:

We hosted events that brought the community our in numbers. All dates went well, no incidents to reports. We started advertisement for our Total Eclipse events starting February 26 - April 1st. We have new participants joining our center daily. We have 85 participants training with our staff trainer and group exercise instructor.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 10 rentals for the month.

Maintenance:

We will get work order in to upgrade bleachers at the baseball complex.

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 Soccer and Baseball registration has opened for all ages male and female. Cheerleading registration is open having 30 participants and practices are held every Thursday from 6:00pm-7:00pm and we are still accepting applicants. The youth basketball practice are held daily and participation numbers are doing well. Youth games are held every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. All registered participants are allowed the experience of playing in league games allowing them to show off the skills they learned during the basketball camp. Southwest Panthers dance team had their first team practice Monday 02/26/204. Tryouts will be held for anyone that's 03/30/2024. Baseball clinic operates Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-7pm.

Adult Athletics: Southwest Community Center will be looking to host a Women basketball league in the coming months. The league will consist of 10 teams in which each team will compete for a first-place championship trophy and individual gold medals. The runner up will receive a trophy. We are still 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-8pm.

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 Black History Exhibits shown at the Community Center with open invitation to the public. Southwest Home Land Coalition will be hosting Free CPR/Narcan training on Saturday 03/02/2024. St. Patrick Day Community Potluck will be held 03/16/2024. The release of our new structure gym schedule take place on 03/04/2024.

ELR Community Center:

- LR Marathon held their safety meetings here in preparation for the event to be held March 1 – 3, 2024.
- East LR Seniors held their Black History program and there were 31 participants.
- EStem Jr High boys held their awards program and fun challenges.
- Little Rock Police Department uses the back area/field for their dog training, weather permitting.
- Maintenance mulches leaves on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields as weather permits.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month.
- Fleming Electric completed re-lamping the breezeway.
- 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, 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, East Little Rock, Southwest, and West Central Seniors each offer various activities such as: arts and craft projects, exercise programs, play various games such as Skip-Bo, dominoes, phase 10, bingo, ceramics, bean bag baseball, chair volleyball, pickle ball, pool, make jewelry, pool competition, line dance classes, etc. Oak Street Clinic joins the sites for bingo, Baptist Health Outreach provide Free Screenings for Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and pulse reading once a month for Dunbar, Southwest, and West Central Seniors.

- Dunbar Seniors: Out of this World word search, Milky Way Bingo (Eclipse Event) Valentine and black history celebrations with East Little Rock sponsored by Love United, Mardi Gras celebration, Dominoes Challenge, Senior Circle, Chair Exercise, Bingo, Table Games, Painting Activities, bible study, Baptist Health Monthly Screenings.
- East Little Rock Seniors: Mardi Gras celebration, Milky Way Bingo (Eclipse Event), Out of this World word search, Valentine and black history celebrations with Dunbar sponsored by Love United, Silver Fox dance class, Baptist Health Monthly Screening, Ceramic, Mind Bending Sessions, Going Down Memory Lane, Bean Bag Baseball, Senior Fitness, Nutrition Class, Arts and Craft, Bingo, and Funtastic Fridays.
- Southwest Seniors: Mardi Gras celebration, Black History and valentine celebrations, Milky Way Bingo (Eclipse Event), Out of this World word search, Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, along with the Fruit and Veg. Outreach, pool challenge, played Skip-bo, bible study, Senior Bowling, pool competition, bean bag baseball, Chair Exercise, walking

club, Birthday Celebration, Aerobics, Arts and Craft Project, Card Games, Fun Day Friday and Bingo.

- West Central Seniors: Mardi Gras celebration, Milky Way Bingo (Eclipse Event), Out of this World word search, Valentine Outing & Birthday Celebration for Mr. Geoffery Starks, Pickleball, bible study, CPR Class by MEMS, Oak Street Clinic Fun Day, Chair Volleyball with Hayes and Jacksonville Centers, Bean Bag Baseball Practice and games against Maumelle Center, Baptist Health Screening, Bible Study and Ping Pong Challenge.

Therapeutic Recreation

Branch Out program will be volunteering for the Little Rock Marathon on Thursday, Feb. 29th. This group looks forward to this each year! Our Countdown to Eclipse starts next week with our first event in the series. On Friday, May 8th we will be hosting our annual spring dance event for our Weekend Warrior and Kids Night Out programs. This year's theme is "Out Of This World"! We are still in preparations for the 22nd Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival that will take place on Friday, May 3 from 10am-1pm at the Hall of Industry- AR State Fairgrounds. Other Eclipse program activities include:

March 12- Branch Out Program: Guest Speaker to explain and discuss the Solar Eclipse to our participants. We will follow this with an Eclipse themed science project.

March 19th- Youth Program- Trip to community center for eclipse simulator followed by solar eclipse themed crafts at the Ottenheimer TR Center

March 26th- Branch Out Program- Museum of Discovery Eclipse program

April 8th- Eclipse Day! TR Eclipse Moon Pie Baking Challenge and Eclipse Viewing Party

JDF & A

All fitness classes are doing well with attendance. Currently conducting a lifeguard training certification course this month. The purpose is for an individual to obtain certification as a lifeguard and be able to gain employment as a lifeguard.

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre held 6 Internal CLR meetings and 5 others for the month of February.

Meetings

- LR Parks Commission
- Civil Service
- LR Parks Work Order
- LR Parks Age Friendly Commission and Retreat
- LR Directors Board Meeting

Adult Athletics

The 2024 Adult softball league will begin registration February 1, 2024. And is in the active network system and ready to accept teams. Finally starting the process getting moved to Hindman golf shop. Moved all furniture for City Hall to Hindman. Been reaching out to some former teams who played at Interstate getting some good responses. Flyers out throughout the city. Also, the flyer is on softball face book page called the Other Page. Summer playground will start June 10, 2024 and

run through July 25, 2024. For Summer Playground, Main Event will be added to activity schedule as well as some new outdoor activities. Will advertise for summer jobs in March. The word is out people are reaching out to get more information about our league. Summer Playground Program Meeting with Ms. Cooper next week along with principles at the schools that we may be assigned for the summer. Softball Interstate Park Rentals on hold, Softball Alsop Park Reservation going well.

First Tee Golf

We have had a pretty good month so far this month. Maintenance has done a lot of upgrading in the shop, rearranging equipment, and organizing workspace areas. On the golf course we have done a lot of trees trimming along some of the golf holes, along with small limb removal. I'm very excited to continue to use Square data from last year's revenue, and looking at days that are slower and times of the day to plan on doing some specials this year to increase revenue. The First Tee of Central Arkansas staff started their first class of the season February 24th. That day we also had our first eclipse theme day. The First Tee Staff did an eclipse theme putting course, and we ran a discounted twilight rate all day, which was a great turn out. Our first tournament of the year will be March 9th. This is the US kids' Tournament which brings over 100 youth golfers from around the state and their families to Little Rock for a one-day junior event. We are looking forward to a great 2024 golf season.

Rebsamen Golf

Set up plan and began work on creating conference room. The carpet installation is complete. Will begin working on bathroom remodel. Increased revenue over January to recoup loss from winter weather. Revenue for February 2024 is up nearly 40% over revenue for 2023. New products received and stocked, working on marketing video describing new technologies.

Rebsamen Tennis

Play picking up as weather begins to warm up. USTA Team Tennis spring season has begun, we have over 30 teams using Rebsamen as home courts. New LED lighting installation began two weeks ago, plan is to take about two months to complete. Resurfacing of 7 courts being bid currently. Two new PT Tennis Aides hired, just interviewed two more to fill all positions. Rebsamen specific leagues have begun.

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

1. Museum attendance for February (through 2/28/24) was 3,643. 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 44% over February 2023 attendance. Total attendance for the first two months of 2024 is 6,908, which is a 25% increase over last year.

2. The museum's virtual programming received 476 new views during February. The most viewed videos were: (1) *The Willys Jeep*, (2) *The Father of a Legend: General Arthur MacArthur*, (3) an interview with Amanda Williams, executive director of the MacArthur Memorial, (4) *African American Soldiers in the Civil War*, and (5) an interview with Vietnam War veteran Sgt. Albert Morgan. The Reading

Brigade presented weekly on-line programming to students at Cloverdale Middle, Wakefield Elementary, Mabelvale Elementary, and Henderson Instructional Resource Center in Little Rock as well as Ellen Smith Elementary in Conway, and Parkway Elementary and Davis Elementary Schools in Bryant.

3. The museum gift shop had sales of \$553 in February, which was a 16% increase over sales in February 2023. To date, gift shop sales are 42% higher than at the same time last year. The museum received \$5,426 in donations during the month and was notified that it has been approved for a \$1,300 grant from the Arkansas Historical Marker Grants program. The funds will be used to pay for half the cost of a historical marker commemorating the role of African American soldiers during the Civil War. The remaining cost of the marker, to be placed behind the museum, came from a private donation. The museum has exceeded its goals of 2.5% increases in both gift shop sales and donations year-to-year comparisons.

4. Museum staff presented weekly Afterschool programming at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers in February to over 260 kids as well as monthly 21st Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy to approximately 75 kids.

5. “Movies at MacArthur” continued its 2024 season with a screening of the movie *The Tuskegee Airmen: Return to Ramitelli* on February 20 commemorating African American History Month. The screening received publicity in the “Entertainment” section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The next film, entitled *Cold War in Space: The Race to the Moon*, is scheduled for March 19 and will be part of events celebrating the solar eclipse. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month from January – November and always include free admission, popcorn and beverages. 2024 partners in the program include Arkansas PBS, Marty and Tim Heiple, Stone’s Throw Brewery, and the World War II Foundation. The complete schedule of 2024 movies is available on the museum website at littlerock.gov/macathur.

6. The museum hosted its first Vintage Military Gear Show on February 18, featuring authentic and reproduction military uniforms and gear from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and Vietnam. Approximately 75 persons attended the event which received publicity in the “Entertainment” section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The museum plans to make the show an annual event.

7. The museum continues to work with representatives from the Clinton Presidential Center, the Military Women’s Memorial in Arlington and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs to plan “Celebrating 75 years of HERStory: Women in the Military.” The symposium will be held at the Clinton Center on March 23, with an opening reception at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History on March 22. The reception will be sponsored by the Arkansas Women’s History Institute in conjunction with the military museum. Special guest at both events will be Tanya Bradsher, Deputy Secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department.

8. The museum is working with the Old State House Museum to coordinate Civil War-themed field trips for public schools in the Little Rock area. The tours will highlight the Civil War history of the two sites and allow each museum to accommodate larger groups. Field trips scheduled for February included (1) Carver Magnet School, (2) Joe T. Robinson High School, and (3) Forest Heights Middle School.

9. Museum staff installed a temporary exhibit at The Weekend Theater as part of its newest play *Call Me Mara*. The exhibit features framed posters and an exhibit case of artifacts that will be in the theater lobby from February 29 – March 17 during the play's run. *Call Me Mara* is set in Arkansas during World War II and was written by local attorney Phillip McMath, son of former governor Sidney McMath.

10. Staff will participate in off-site programming as part of the Museum of Discovery's "Science After Dark" on February 29. The theme for this event is *Star Wars: Return of the Eclipse*.

11. The museum will host "The Original New Woman of America's Civil War: The Story of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker" on March 5 to commemorate Women's History Month. Dr. Walker was the only female to serve as a physician with the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1865 she was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson and today remains the only woman ever to receive the country's highest award. Dr. Walker will be portrayed by Debra Conner, living historian from South Carolina.

12. The museum has been asked to host an outdoor traveling exhibit March 14 – April 10. Global Ties Arkansas is hosting the exhibit in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of State and its parent organization in Washington D.C., Global Ties U.S. The exhibit is called *Impact of Exchange*, and the reason it's coming to Little Rock is because we, as a state, rank on the lower end of the number of people (students, teachers, anyone!), take advantage of programs like the Fulbright program, etc., to travel abroad. The Department of State is trying to remedy that and try to reach a bigger number of Arkansans to learn about this opportunity. The exhibit consists of 6 cubes, standing 6 ft. X 6 ft., that will have pictures of exchange alumni and some text of the mind-broadening experiences they had while in another country. It was last shown in Portland Maine in September and travels to Boise, Idaho after it leaves Little Rock.

Outdoor Recreation

The Parks department is hosting an AmeriCorps team from February 17th through April 13th. I am the city's liaison for the AmeriCorps team. To date the AmeriCorps team has done the following: Trash pick-up at War Memorial, Allsopp North and South, The William E Clark Wetlands and the Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden. To date the team has removed over 500 lbs. of trash from these areas. Assisting with the Little Rock Marathon preparations, including filling 300 sandbags, moving equipment and supplies to the Convention Center, preparing runner medals and setting up the fencing for the start/finish line area. Cleaned out the War Memorial maintenance shop, which will now be used as storage for Outdoor Recreation program supplies and equipment. The team also went through First Aid/CPR/AED training with MEMS. The AmeriCorps team will aid and assist with parks maintenance projects including invasive species removal, trail maintenance, water ways clean-up, trash removal and preparation for the Eclipse. Partnerships with AR Game & Fish, the Museum of Discovery and the Boys Scouts are being pursued to collaborate on programming. The instillation of an orienteering course and Allsopp South is being conducted in collaboration with the Orienteering of Central Arkansas Club.