



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 11/13/2024

ALL Community Centers

Participated in the youth volleyball league that ended this month, Halloween events, and they are now registering for the upcoming basketball season.

West Central Community Center

Hosted the City of Little Rock Annual Pink Party on October 23 which ended with Mid-Managers Kick-Ball games. They also helped Stephens Community Center by hosting

Southwest Community Center

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 were held on 10/13/2024 with a total of 21 students another successful collaboration with Pulaski County Youth Services

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

From October 14th to 18th, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center hosted an inspiring Breast Cancer Awareness Week filled with engaging activities to raise awareness and support for those affected by breast cancer. The activities were drink, dress, guess, cookies and laps for a cure. Each activity offered a wonderful opportunity to connect, show support, and make a meaningful difference. We are proud to have opened our doors to all visitors and members, making Breast Cancer Awareness Week a tremendous success. On October 27th, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center hosted a Trick or Swim event with 47 participants in attendance.

MacArthur Museum of Military History

Had visitors from 30 states as well as from Costa Rica, China, Germany, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland and New Zealand.

Outdoor Recreation

Mike was MC for the Creep & Crawl run on 10/19/24. There were approx. 1000 participants. Also, had a disc golf Pop-up event on 10/16/24. Gearing up for the November 16th trail run event (Squatch Till You Drop) taking place at Allsopp Park.

First-Tee/Rebsamen

First Tee was able to get the historical marker put up on the site where the original Concordia Country Clubhouse was from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Rebsamen had 100 golfers in attendance for the Catholic Charities golf tournament. National Golf Day was October 4, 2024.

Therapeutic Recreation

Logan's Run took place on October 5th at 10am at Murray Park it was dedicated to the memory and legacy of Logan Bussard, Little Rock Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Specialist that passed on March 31, 2024. This event was created in partnership with the Little Rock Marathon.



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Stephens Community Center

Star Student Afterschool Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program is growing. We are at 92% and still looking to grow. The Afterschool Program on 10/24/24 celebrated National Lights On. The Walk-Thru Trunk or Treat took place 10/31/24 at the school cafeteria.

Youth Sports Program:

We finished the Volleyball Season with 6th & 7th grade placed 3rd and 4th & 5th graders went undefeated in League and Tournament. Registration is open and participant are signing up for Youth Basketball. We completed Skills and Drills that were held on Saturday mornings plus had practice for Volleyball.

Adult Activities:

The 40 & Over Men's League finished with Let's Get It winning League and Da Big Doggs winning Tournament. The tournament was held at West Central Community Center.

Facility Vacancies:

2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time Custodian).

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.

Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our star student afterschool program, cheerleading, flag football and volleyball. Our programs have remained steady in attendance and revenue. Presented a National Lights On Program on October 24. They also had a Halloween function.

Youth Sports Program

This month we started playing volleyball and continued with cheer. Volleyball games were played Monday - Tuesday at Dunbar Community Center. Game times each night was 6:00 pm, 6:45pm and 7:30pm. We had a total of 21 youth signed up. We recognized breast cancer awareness by wearing pink in the month of October. Basketball sign-ups has started.

West Central Community Center

Pumpkin Carving Event held on Oct. 12 we had over 75 participants, indoor Halloween Table-a-Treat event on Oct. 31 was a great success (was originally Trunk – or - Treat). We have Met with volunteers for Basketball coaches & referee recruitment have begun. Youth Basketball skills & drills have started. Advertising for family movie night.

Youth Sports Program:

Ten participants in Cheer. We have ordered cheerleading uniforms for the team they will be cheering during the youth basketball season. We are recruiting and registering for basketball season.

West Central CC:

Hosted Stephen Community Center 40 & Over Men's Basketball Tournament games due to their center renovation schedule. Also, hosted the City of Little Rock Annual Pink Party on October 23 which ended with Mid-Managers Kick-Ball games. Every Thursday night is ladies' night, women can come in and have open run basketball games. National Night Out was held on Oct. 1.

Rentals:

The center had rentals and hosted neighborhood association meetings. Parkview Boys Basketball team continues to practice in the afternoon due to their gym being occupied.

Maintenance:

Parking Lot was restriped, and bumpers were installed (looks really good).

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: The afterschool Star Student Program enrollment numbers are 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 20 participants attending every Wednesday 6:00p.m.

Youth Athletics: Our 6th and 7th grade Co-Ed volleyball team won first place champs as well as tournament champs. The team was presented with two trophies and individual bracelets. The Southwest Panthers cheerleading team has participated at every game and are gearing up for a cheer competition to be held at the end of the year. Registration for basketball has closed and we are in the process of developing teams to begin practices. The basketball clinic ended on 10/15/2024 with a total of 25 participants.

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 were held on 10/13/2024 with a total of 21 students another successful collaboration with Pulaski County Youth Services. The Southwest Panthers art class participated in Peace Week created mural located at the entrance of the outdoor pool. Fall Fest will be held 10/25/2024 from 4:00pm-6:00pm collaboration with Dee Brown. November 15, 2024 Second chance Job Fair will be held at the facility from 10: 00a.m - 2:00p.m.

ELR Community Center

Attended procurement training and National Night Out at MacArthur Park. Renovations is still going well. They have demolished the slide in pool, started breaking up the pool, installing drywall in rooms, framing for doors, removed pool fencing and the diving boards, working on the roof, removed all of cabinetry, lights, and gym/game room/hallway flooring. 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 in absence of supervisor, and attend various meetings as scheduled, also helping with Aging & Active program as needed. Little Rock Police Department continue to use the back area/field for their dog training, as needed. AAU football practices on the multi-purpose field Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday weekly. 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 participants. 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 is the State Chair Volleyball Champions, tournament was held October 17. East Little Rock attended the RSVP banquet in Benton and some of them received awards. October birthday Celebrations were held, as well as other activities. They all continue to have visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. Southwest had a flu shot clinic and food day with Baptist Health. They 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 TR Branch Out Volunteer Program was awarded the Champion Team award at the annual Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association conference. This award honors a group or organization whose efforts as a volunteer made a significant contribution to parks and recreation in the state of Arkansas. Nominees may include businesses, nonprofit organizations, or others whose time, expertise, and/or labor is donated and unpaid. Nominations may be made in recognition of the nominee's cumulative service or for their efforts on a single project or activity that has created benefit for parks and recreation at the local, regional, or statewide level. The TR Branch Out groups volunteers within their community to include working with the Little Rock Zoo, Little Rock Parks and Recreation, Little Rock Marathon, community events, etc.

Coming into the month of November we will be getting prepared our Annual Therapeutic Recreation Thanksgiving Potluck/ Cooking class. Participants bring their recipe and ingredients to create a family style Thanksgiving meal with friends located at the Ottenheimer TR Center on November 21st. We will have a workday at the Little Rock Zoo on November 14th. Our new program, Time Out for TR, will take a trip to Mount Magazine on November 15th. This gives participants an opportunity to explore outside their community and add new areas of leisure interest and education to their life. We will also be preparing for our Annual Christmas program set for December 19th at the Fellowship Bible Church in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs Ministry.

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Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

In October 2024, the facility sold a total of 1,643 monthly memberships, marking an increase from the 1,343 memberships sold in October 2023.

FITNESS

In October, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center introduced a new Pilates class. Pilates is a low-impact exercise method focused on strengthening muscles while improving postural alignment and flexibility. Developed by Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century, it emphasizes core strength, controlled movements, and mindful breathing. Classes typically involve a series of mat exercises or equipment-based workouts, targeting various muscle groups. Pilates is suitable for individuals of all fitness levels and can enhance overall body awareness, stability, and balance, making it a popular choice for those seeking a holistic approach to fitness., which is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 PM. The class attracted a total of 56 attendees throughout the month.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

From October 14th to 18th, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center hosted an inspiring Breast Cancer Awareness Week filled with engaging activities to raise awareness and support for those affected by breast cancer. We're thrilled to share the highlights of this impactful week!

Laps for the Cure: Participants walked or swam laps to show their support, embracing fitness and community spirit.

Guess for the Cure: Visitors had fun guessing the number of candies in the jar, with all proceeds going towards breast cancer initiatives.

Dress for the Cure: Our center turned pink as everyone donned their best pink outfits, standing in solidarity with those impacted by breast cancer.

Drink for the Cure: Attendees enjoyed refreshing cups of pink lemonade, raising awareness with every sip.

Cookies for the Cure: Delicious cookies were available, with proceeds supporting breast cancer organizations.

Each activity offered a wonderful opportunity to connect, show support, and make a meaningful difference. We are proud to have opened our doors to all visitors and members, making Breast Cancer Awareness Week a tremendous success.

On October 27th, Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center hosted a Trick or Swim event. With 47 participants in attendance, the day was filled with festive fun and aquatic adventures. Attendees enjoyed themed activities, games, and, of course, plenty of treats. The atmosphere was lively, with costumes adding to the excitement. A fantastic time was had by all, making it a memorable Halloween celebration at the pool. For the month of October, Baptist Health Community Outreach conducted monthly blood pressure checks and also provide flu shots for our members and visitors, with a total of 18 individuals taking advantage of these services.

The Centre at University Park

The month of October was successful, we kicked it off with a monthly work order meeting with 24 in attendance. As we geared up for this next week to come, we set the standard for our upcoming event that the procurement team put on. It was a hit, and the mark was made for everyone. We had a beautiful turnout of 220 people from far and local, it was filled with learning, fun and wonderful eateries from different food trucks. The procurement team said they loved working with us here and they're ready for next year. We proceeded to make it happen for others and making sure we keep the facility nice, clean and presentable. Week after week we had small group meetings and bigger group meetings, from NUSA with 15 members, Parks benefits Information meetings with a total of 25 people on all three days combined. We also had another awesome event with the Hunger Relief Foundation to end college hunger with a 175-college representatives and students to show support for their schools. It was a hit, and everyone are ready for another one. As we continue to grow in number, we strive to keep everything beautiful and remain ready and willing to work.

Youth Athletics

Youth Volleyball Season was completed this month, games were played at Dunbar Community Center on Monday & Tuesdays, for youth 4 - 7grades. There were 8 teams/70 players. Most of the community center players participated in a pre-season skills & drills clinic. Cheerleaders from Stephens Community Center cheered at several volleyball games. Registration is open for cheer and basketball. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program/Alsop

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

Adult Softball Program

Interstate Park has completed its adult fall ball coed league with team WK defeating Kings and Queens of the Diamond by the score of 15-7.

Summer Playground Program

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

First Tee Golf

Fall is in the Air. This month we were able to get the historical marker put up on the site where the original Concordia Country Clubhouse was from the late 1800s and early 1900s. If you have not had a chance to come out and see the site, it's incredible. We plan to do some landscaping with some of the funds that are left over from donations around the marker and place a couple of benches there for people to sit. National Golf Day was on October 4 and we ran our twilight special all day long that day, which is \$20 with the golf cart per person. On October 12, we did a tournament on par three which was a parent-child tournament for a family who lost their little nine-year-old daughter to a brain tumor disease. The tournament is called Par Three for DIPG. It was a great success. Friends and family showed up and had a wonderful time. They played games before each hole such as pie face, limbo, and soccer. This made it very enjoyable for the kids who had never played the game of golf before, and the family was able to raise over \$15,000. Clint and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tom Clark. Mr. Clark is a well-known Golf Course architect who in his career has completed nearly 100 new course projects and more than 250 remodeling projects. Two of which are our very own, Rebsamen Golf Course and First Tee Golf Course redesign. It was great talking and riding around with Mr. Clark and talking to him about why he designed certain golf course areas the way he did. It was also nice to be able to show him the course currently and get his thoughts and suggestions on what we could do for future projects. As we get into the slower growing season, our maintenance staff has been focusing on tree trimming and blowing leaves on the golf course and around the property. As of today, we are at \$284,539.33 in gross sales. This is an increase of 11.60% from this time last year. We have done a total of 19,514 transactions with an average net sale of \$14.47. Golf carts remain number one selling item at \$105,547.87. As we go into the winter months, we do expect revenue to slow down some, but we are only about \$5,000 from meeting last year's total revenue.

Rebsamen Golf

We had over 64 ladies in attendance for our weekly lady's day for the month of October. Revenue for 2024 is up 5% over 2023. On 10/07 we had 100 golfers in attendance for the Catholic Charities golf tournament. 10/10 we had 24 ladies in attendance for our RWGA Guest Day. 10/11 and 10/12 we hosted the Central Arkansas Pro-Am. October 25 Raising Alexander Charity Golf Tournament was held.

Rebsamen Tennis

USTA Combo season now in full swing, have over 30+ teams using Rebsamen as their home courts this fall. 1000 player pickleball tournament next fall (they tape the lines on tennis courts), confirmed, will have exact dates soon. ATA 65 and over state tournament this month. High school tennis finished. We also hosted a small middle school season, using the courts 5 days a week after school. Rebsamen specific leagues are currently playing Monday and Thursday nights (over 30 players in Monday league). Raul and Janan's groups working, fall classes in full gear. Working on new Rebsamen women's leagues both singles and doubles.

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for October was 4,503. 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 759 walk-in guests and 2,101 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, visitors came from 30 states – Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Nevada – as well as from Costa Rica, China, Germany, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland and New Zealand. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 530 new views during October for a total of 5,359 views for 2024. Off-site programming included 350 youth and parents at the Old State House Museum's Homeschool Resource Fair on October 3, 50 college students at UCA's Public History Job Fair on October 10, and 275 adults at the Museum of Discovery's "Science After Dark" event on October 10. Total attendance for the first ten months of 2024 is 37,517. 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 October, 358 children received instruction through this weekly outreach with an additional 80 students through the monthly

outreach at J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory Academy through the 21st Century program. The museum raised over \$7,091 in October through donations and special events such as the Arkansas Paranormal Expo, bringing its total fundraising in 2024 to \$30,489. Total gift shop sales for October were \$1,137.53 for a total of \$9,756.55 for 2024. The MacArthur Park Group is finalizing plans for the design competition for a new shade structure for the MacArthur Unleashed dog park. A group of judges will review submissions on October 29 followed by a public preview for the designs on November 13 at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Attendance for the October 15 “Movies at MacArthur” film *Command and Control* was 86. Attendance for the film program this year is 565 and has already broken last year’s attendance of 517. The next movie, *Elvis and the USS Arizona* is scheduled for November 19. The film deals with Elvis Presley’s role in raising money for the memorial to the *USS Arizona* in 1961. Staff has finalized the schedule for the 2025 season and will unveil it at the November movie. Approximately 300 persons attended the 11th Annual Vintage Military Vehicle Show on October 12. The event featured military vehicles from members of the Arkansas Military Vehicle Preservation Association, as well as exhibitors of military memorabilia. Hot dogs and chips were provided by Home Instead and Pinnacle Legacy Law. Bluebell Creameries and Central Arkansas Water provided ice cream and water. Photos from the event are included in the link below. A photo of the event as also featured in the Sunday, October 13 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (see attached).

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FYxMwEGMVve1Gpm47>

The museum was one of eight sites for this year’s Big Boo!seum Bash on October 24. The Jacksonville Museum of Military History and the Visitors Center at Curran Hall joined the museum to offer activities and candy for participants. Other museums participating in the event this year were the Old State House Museum, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the Museum of Discover, Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Firehouse Museum and Hostel, Historic Arkansas Museum, and the Witt Stephens Nature Center. Approximately 500 children and parents stopped by the museum during this year’s Boo!seum. Over 865 persons attended the 13th Annual Arkansas Paranormal Expo on October 26-27. The event featured vendors and speakers on various paranormal topics, with all proceeds benefitting the museum. The museum received approximately \$6,000 from the event. The event was featured on a new segment from Channel 7 on Saturday evening and Sunday news shows. An article on the expo appeared in the Monday, October 28 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. See the link below.

[Paranormal enthusiasts gather at expo](#)

Outdoor Recreation

I was the MC for the Creep & Crawl run on 10/19/24. There were approx.1000 participants. I had a disc golf Pop-up event on 10/16/24. The turn-out was lower than usual due to cool, rainy weather. The event was free-of-charge and ran from 9am-4pm. The events were well received by the public, who have continued to express their gratitude for the pop-up events. Because of my vacation, I only lead 2 mountain bike rides in October. I will continue to offer rides through the Fall and Winter. Met with the event coordinators of War Memorial Stadium to discuss having disc golf in the stadium. They are very interested in the idea. The plan is to have events starting in Spring ’25. I have been leading walks in the park at MacArthur Park. Attendance has been sporadic, but participants have expressed their gratitude for the program. There have been 100 flyers put out to promote the November 16th trail run event (Squatch Till You Drop) taking place at Allsopp Park. Registration for the November 16th trail run event has been open for over a month. Registrations are slowly coming in. Currently, there are 26 participants signed up. The goal is to have at least 50 participants. I have been working on pre-event logistics for the November 16th trail run, which includes Promotion (flyers, social media posts and a radio PSA on Parks’s radio station KWCP), race day operations, safety protocols, making awards and ordering supplies.