

Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 11/8/2023

No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!

Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy

- Therapeutic Recreation Programmer –awaiting applicants referral
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- on hold
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – awaiting offer- acceptance/decline
- Aquatic Specialist- awaiting offer- acceptance/decline
- Museum Program Assistant- accepted offer; awaiting onboarding
- Recreation Programmer- Senior- awaiting approval to hire

Community Centers:

Stephens Community Center:

- The National Lights On Program went very well 126 attended.
- The Halloween Program was Fantastic 418 attended.
- The Latchkey Program is still growing. We are 84% complete.
- Registration for Youth Basketball is on-going. Skills and Drills are starting.
- Adult Sports Activities:
- The Men's Fall League has ended with "Let's Get It" winning League and Team KIO winning Tournament.
- 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. We did the fall festival for the afterschool youth on Halloween, complete with bounce houses, candy, music and plenty of games.

- Youth Basketball Program

This month we started registration for our Youth basketball program which will start in December. The program has eight divisions. PK-3-PK5 co-ed, K-1st co-ed, 2nd & 3rd grade co-ed and 4th-5th grade co-ed. Games will be played at all community centers Monday-Thursday starting at 6pm nightly and Pre-K games on Saturday mornings.

- Lights on Afterschool

On October 26, 2023 we held our Lights on Afterschool celebration which is a national event. We did an ice cream social with light bulb sugar cookies and t-shirts for everyone. The youth really enjoyed it.

- Youth Volleyball

Program went well for both divisions. Dunbar had one teams in the 3rd -5th grade division and 6th-8th grade division. Regular season ended with Dunbar teams as the league champs. Our lower division were tournament champs and older division were runner-ups.

West Central Community Center:

- Youth Sports Program: Advertisement for basketball has gone out and registration is increasing. We have information at Scholarmade, and Romine Elementary schools. Our goal for participation is

300. We have improved our advertisement by emailing and texting via Active. West Central's volleyball team "Scholarmade" won the championship in the 5th & 6th grade division.

- **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.
- **West Central CC:** West Central had two events this month. October 28, Community Fest we hosted 45 vendors and over 100 participants from the community. This event was in collaboration with LR Community programs and Director Lewis. There was face painting, bounce houses, 360 photo booths, and Power 92 radio station hosted live on location. Our annual Halloween Fest went well. We hosted about 40 families. They participated in our Halloween maze, cake walks, and movie. We gave out candy bags, popcorn and cupcakes. All dates went well no incidents to reports. 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.
- **Rentals:** The center had a total of 6 rentals for the month.
- **Maintenance:** We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month.

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 is open for enrollment. Cheerleading registration is open and practices are held every Thursday and Friday from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The youth basketball clinic last day was October 30, 2023. 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 is approaching the end of the season with the Championship game on November 4, 2023. The league had 10 teams in which the runner up and league champions will receive trophies and medals. We are looking to host a Women basketball league during the winter months.
- **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 will host the last session for the year on Sunday November 5, 2023 from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. The goal was to register at least 15 participants per session that would receive one on one tutoring sessions in all areas of the ACT. Each session had at least 15 students register ranging from 7th grade to 12th grade. National Night Out was held at the Community Center on October 3, 2023 between the hours of 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. in which we entertained 149 guest collaborating with local businesses and First LR church. The Community Center host its second health seminar on Saturday October 14, 2023 from 10:30a.m.12:00p.m. with speaker Stephanie Smith covering topics on Medicaid, health benefits and insurance. Lights on Afterschool was held October 26, 2023 from 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. which Art was displayed from Artist aging 6yrs to 17yrs. first, second and third place winners were awarded prizes. Annual Trunk or Treat event was held on October 27, 2023 in the parking lot of the community center between the hours of 3:00p.m.-7:00p.m. collaborations with Dee Brown library and varies local business help make the event successful entertaining over 190 participants. November 4, 2023 last day for Men league basketball, November 5, 2023 last session of ACT prep, November 11, 2023 Health Wellness Expo, November 27, 2023 first day student registration collaboration with LRSD.

ELR Community Center:

- Little Rock Parks & Recreation Youth Bike Program was held here, on Tuesday & Thursday 4 - 5:30pm led by two Parks & Recreation staff that were trained on the bike program, through NWA Trailblazers, it will began again at a later date.
- The 4th Annual Passionate Pink Party was held on October 20, 2023, along with a tribute to City Manager Bruce T. Moore with dedication table, pictures, and a balloon release.
- LR Marathon held a committee meeting here in preparation for the event to be held in March of 2024.
- East LR Neighborhood Association held their Annual National Night Out this month. There were drawings for prizes, youth activities, information tables from various businesses, with over 100 participants.
- EStem Jr High girls continues their basketball practice Monday –Friday 3:45pm - 6:30pm and some Saturday as needed. Their season has started and they are off and running.
- Little Rock Police Department utilized the back area/field for their dog training weekly.
- Horticulture trimmed hedges on the entire grounds, raked and blew off the areas.
- Maintenance cut, edged, and blew grass on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields.
- Urban forestry grinded the stumps from the two trees that were previously cut down.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month and will continue meeting monthly, unless moved or cancelled by their president.
- AAU Football continued their practices Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday as daylight permits. They are no longer practicing here, the Multi-purpose field lights are not working.
- 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 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: 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, chair volleyball, bean bag baseball, Senior Circle (Bible Study), Baptist Health Outreach Monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screenings/Flu Shots, painting project, table games, Bingo with Sage and Oak Street Clinic, string painting and Halloween Snacks and homemade biscuits was provided by Mrs. Daisy as a special treat. Lost a dear member Mrs. Doris Barton who provided the seniors with food from the foodbank and other stores until her health declined. Several members attended her service.
- East Little Rock Seniors: Silver Foxes Dance Class Showcase was a great success and was enjoyed by all in attendance, enjoying doing ceramics, playing cards, art projects, chair fitness, nutrition education, Baptist Health Monthly Screening provided along with their flu shots, represented China at RSVP function at Sherman Park (Kimonos were worn and head dress and food was served, making jewelry, tomatoes are still growing in bunches and planted greens, Halloween Party and Funtastic Friday.

- Southwest Seniors: Indoor bowling game, Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, pool challenge, played Skip-bo, 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 /Halloween celebration and candy party was enjoyed by all, ring toss game, chair exercise, guest speaker on Medicare and Bingo Fridays.
- West Central Seniors: Competing in Pickleball and Chair Volleyball with Hayes Center and Jacksonville Center and with each other, both teams of Bean Bag Baseball (Badgers and Blazers) are participating in the Fall League against various sites around the state, Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screens for blood pressure and blood sugar /Flu Shots, Going Away/Birthday Party for Mrs. Odie Hendrix who is moving out of state to live with her daughter was bitter sweet.
- Each participant that received the Flu Shot was given a \$50.00 Visa Gift Card.
- Assisted in the 40th Year National Night Out Event held at East Little Rock Community Center.

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre had 30 Internal CLR bookings for the month of October of which 2 cancelled and 1 where a no show.
- October total revenue for the month of October \$0
- Total attendance 1,687.
- **Meetings:** LR City Agenda/Board, Human Resources Civil Service hearings, Planning Dept., Parks Commission, Parks Work Order, Age Friendly Little Rock Commission, Parks Pioneers Interviews, NUSA, LR Marathon, Parks Stat, LR Mock Board Meeting, LR Special Board Meeting, Pickleball Meeting, LRPR Senior Renovation Meeting, LR Marathon Creep N Crawl Packet Pick-up, Director Web Food Alliance Summit Meeting, LR Board Budget Meeting, Karen Sykes Volunteer Meeting, LR TV Interviews

Therapeutic:

- The Therapeutic Recreation Division is in full holiday swing. We hosted our annual Costume Karaoke event on October 20th. This year we partnered with Camp Aldersgate. We held the event in their Commons building and combined our participants with their Kota camp participants. Moving forward we hope to continue this partnership and make this a large scale public event. The TR Branch Out participants have continued their volunteer service at the Little Rock Zoo. The group volunteers monthly to assist the zoo staff in jobs such as raking leaves and pine straw as well as working with their horticulture team to clean out flower beds, etc.
- Coming up we will be preparing for our annual Thanksgiving event which is a "potluck" cooking class that allows participants to use their recipes and prepare dishes at the TR center together in preparation for a "family style" Thanksgiving lunch. This event will take place on November 16th. We are also already 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.
- The Therapeutic Recreation division hosted its annual TR Camping event Oct. 2-4. This event takes place at Camp Aldersgate. Activities include fishing, hiking, canoeing, team building games, arts and crafts, and outdoor cooking. The premise of this program is to increase independence, recreation and leisure experiences and education, and promote social skills and peer interaction. It also provides respite for families.

- Sherrie Shinn, TR Coordinator, will be attending the Therapeutic Recreation Symposium for the Southwest November 6-8. This conference takes place at Scottish Rites Children's hospital in Dallas, Texas. Sherrie will be a speaker at this conference and will be presenting on the uniqueness of the Little Rock Therapeutic Recreation Division and its programs. The discussion will 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 the central Arkansas area and surrounding areas.

MacArthur Military Museum:

1. Museum attendance for October was 5,311, which was a 37% increase over last year's attendance for the month. 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 13% over October 2022 on-site attendance.
2. Museum staff presented Afterschool programming in October at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers on a weekly basis, reaching 291 kids. The museum also presented 21st Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy on a monthly basis starting in October, reaching 85 students. Staff from the Clinton Presidential Center assisted with the off-site programming at the two 21st Century Program sites.
3. The museum's "Movies at MacArthur" film series is on track to have a record-breaking year. Approximately 450 persons have attended a "Movies at MacArthur" film in 2023. Films have included documentaries on historical conflicts as well as issues confronting veterans today. Thanks to the programs partners admission is always free. The final movie for 2023 is scheduled for November 14 and will be *The Gettysburg Story*. A flyer for the November film is attached.
4. The museum participated in the Museum of Discovery's Science After Dark event on October 12. The theme for the programming was "A Nightmare at the Museum." Approximately 700 persons were reached during this outreach program.
5. Approximately 200 persons attended the 10th Annual Vintage Military Vehicle Show on October 14 on the parade grounds behind the museum. The events featured Jeeps and other military vehicles from the Arkansas Military Vehicle Preservation Association. Attendees were treated to free ice cream, water, grilled hot dogs and chips courtesy of partnerships with Bluebell Creameries, Central Arkansas Water, and Woodmen Life. The link below contains an article that appeared in the October 15 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on the event.

Please see: [Collectors show off 21 military vehicles](#)

6. The museum participated in the 29th Annual Big Boo!-seum Bash on October 26. This free event allows museums in the downtown area to provide candy and activities for kids on the Thursday prior to Halloween. Kids and parents learn where the downtown museums and cultural sites are located, as well as information on their programming. This year the museum partnered with Curran Hall and the Jacksonville Museum of Military History to provide treats and activities at Curran Hall. Thanks to funding from the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, kids who visited all participating locations were eligible for prize drawings.
7. The museum hosted the 12th Annual Arkansas Paranormal Expo on October 28-29. The event is a fall fundraiser and has raised over \$55,000 for the museum since it began in 2011. This year over 750 persons attended the two-day event, which resulted in over \$6,500 in profit for the museum. The link below contains an article that appeared in the October 29 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* regarding the expo.

Please see: [Paranormal Expo draws hundreds](#)

Athletics -

Interstate/All sop Park Program

Road closure at Interstate due to construction on the road on the East side, But can access fields and are still available for rental accessing from the west side. Kickball will be done this Sunday.

Adult Softball Program

Fall softball has been postponed due to low interest for the fall.

Summer Playground Program

Met with Mr. Williams with LRSD on Monday to discuss location but we could not finalize which location but we should have them by the end of the year.

Crump Park

The Last day for movies in the park will be November 2, 2023. But we have youth football continuing to practice at this location.

Southside Park

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

Rebsamen Tennis:

- High School season over, middle school season now in progress (small season for middle school)
- 10/6 – 10/7 STA sectional adult tourney (alternate site)
- 10/9 – 10/10 6A State High School Tournament
- 10/14 Volkl demo day (tennis company)
- 10/22 Luke Jensen (former tour pro and ESPN commentator) came to town and did a clinic
- 10/24 – 10/26 ATA Combo State tournament (rained out on Saturday and Sunday)
- 10/30 – 12/10 USTA singles league season has begun
- New Assistant Manager, Rebecca Boland, has started and doing great
- In process to replace a few part time tennis aides (desk) as our current ones headed off to college

JDFAC:

FITNESS

- The Jim Dailey celebrated Breast Care Awareness on the week of October 16th – October 20th. For the week, we provided information on breast cancer awareness and did a variety of activities, games, and refreshment for the members and guest. Everyone enjoyed themselves
- All other fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

AQUATICS

- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.
- The outdoor pool area closed on October 28th.

Rebsamen Golf:

- On November 6 and 7 are pumps will be 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.

First Tee: Fall is in the air,

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 also started to advertise on the radio about our birthday party rental package we offer along with our afternoon twilight we offer every day. We have seen an increase in play this year which comes also an increase in revenue.

We are looking forward to a great start to 2024 and cannot wait for spring golf.

Outdoor Recreation-

- Visited 15 of our city parks
- Developed and started marketing the Walk in the Park program
- Moved into the office space at War Memorial
- Facilitated sessions of the Trail Blazers program
- Helped run the Enduro race event at River Mtn park
- Interacted with park users at War Memorial park
- Visited Rockefeller Scout Camp with Shawanda Craig and Leland Couch to begin conversation about the viability of constructing camping and program installations at Hindman Park for us by the scouts and the general public.
- Met with Affordable Trail Solutions at Boyle park to check on the progress of the trails project.
- Met with Central Arkansas Trail Alliance members at their membership meeting to answer question about the Boyle park trails project
- Contacted the AR Audubon Society about collaborating for a birding program
- Reviewed Parks & Recreation policies and procedures
- Collaborated with SHAM Events to assist with a Cyclocross race at War Memorial park
- Began discussions with the AR Canoe club about possible collaboration in the Spring of '24
- Contacted NICA leadership about possible collaboration
- Contacted The Nature Conservancy about possible collaboration
- Discussed programmatic development with Shawanda Craig and Leland Couch