



## **Parks Commission Recreation - Report 6/12/2024**

### **ALL Community Centers**

Participated in the Annual Star Student Banquet held @ West Central Community.

### **Active & Aging**

Had a visit from Mr. Nathaniel Hill at East Lr Senior Program, he is the individual the Nathaniel W. Hill Complex is named after.

### **Southwest Community Center**

Will host a Bike Rodeo on June 115, 2024, in collaboration with Dee Brown Library and recycled Bikes for kids Non-Profit.

### **The Centre at University Park**

The Centre held 21 Internal CLR meetings along with others for the month of May and the attendance was 1,321.

### **All Community Center Locations**

Youth soccer and baseball are in post-season play. **Stephens** held a latch-key end of the year celebration and a glow party.

### **Rebsamen Golf/First - Tee**

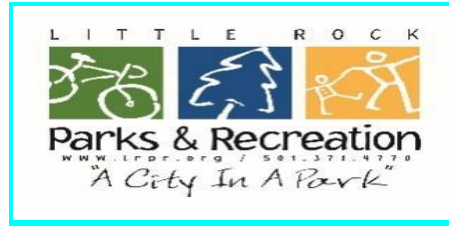
First Tee held the Monk Wade Junior Championship. Rebsamen Wenday Ladies Day had 180+ for the month of May.

### **Tennis**

Held the Little Rock Open Tennis Championship May 26 – June 2, 2024. They also had the grand Re-Opening scheduled for Friday May 24, 2004. Working on a new Rebsamen Tennis logo. New LED lighting installation is complete.

### **JDF &AC**

Held Fitness in the park at War Memorial Park. The outdoor swimming pool opened as scheduled May 25, 2024.



## **Parks Commission – Recreation Report 6/12/2024**

### **Stephens Community Center:**

#### **Afterschool Programs:**

Received the Stephen Star Award from Stephens Elementary School, Fellowship Bible Church cleaned and spruced up the flower beds. They also

#### **Youth Sports Program**

Our Baseball and T-Ball Teams are working hard. Doing make-up games to finish out the season. The celebration for this sport will be June 14, 2024, with a Swim Party at Jim Dailey.

#### **Adult Activities:**

The Men's League is in Tournament play finished up on June 3, 2024.

#### **Facility Vacancies:**

We have filled the Programmer position, waiting for the start date. Vacant: 2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time Custodians).

#### **Maintenance:**

We are still waiting for start dates on work to be done at the Facility to it. 😊 We've had plenty of contractors walk thru so there is Light at the end of the tunnel for work to be done.

1. Gym Floor and the Bleachers replaced.
2. Update to all areas of the Facility.
3. Columns at the front of the building.
4. Signage for outside of
5. Building to be painted

### **Dunbar Community Center**

#### **After School Programs**

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program. Our program has remained steady in attendance. Participants in our program have the opportunity to receive homework assistance and learn the value of recreational programs.

#### **Outdoor Youth Programs**

Our outdoor youth programs have started, we are practicing and still take youth in the various sports.

#### **Youth Volleyball Training**

Our youth volleyball training program meets every Thursday for 1 hour. It is an opportunity for boys and girls grades 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> to enhance their skills or learn the game of volleyball. We have 0 males

and several females enrolled and attend regularly. The program requires a youth monthly membership to attend.

**Meetings**

The ward meeting was held here on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I was told it was the largest turnout to date. The public was engaged and asked several questions about the upcoming 1 cent sales tax proposal.

**West Central Community Center:**

**Youth Sports Program:**

West Central had 238 participants in baseball this season, we were able to produce 21 teams in the league. Baseball season has been delayed a few weeks because of heavy rain. All make up games are currently being played and the playoffs starts June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. The dance had 25 participants. Both are growing every month.

**West Central CC:**

This month we hosted the Star Student Banquet on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We awarded nine participants in their excellence with WCCC this year. Our overall Star Student Scholarship was presented to Olivia Moore. We hosted a Sip & Paint event for the Senior Program this month. We partnered with West Central Neighborhood Association in their annual community clean up event of John Borrow neighborhood. We are preparing to host our first “Youth in Action” Program.

**Rentals:**

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

**Maintenance:**

All maintenance requests have been fulfilled. We are following up with maintenance supervisor to repaint the fire lanes.

**Employment:**

We have hired one new staff this month and two are still pending.

**Southwest Community Center**

**Latchkey Afterschool Program:** The program age group range from 5-15. All participants 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, arts and crafts, volleyball, and video game tournaments.

**Outdoor Recreation**

Activities for our summer program participants are in the works. SWLR Bike Rodeo planning continues in collaboration with Dee Brown Library and Recycled Bikes for Kids Non-Profit. Over 30 vendors are confirmed for the SWLR Bike Rodeo. The AGFC Fishing Education Course has been confirmed for our Summer Campers. Several fishing trips to Hindman Park are in the process of being confirmed for our summer campers.

**Youth Athletics**

Southwest Community Center Youth Soccer, T-Ball, Baseball season is going on. Jr. Hoops registration will be closing soon as we prepare for the season to begin in May. The youth Cheerleading registration remains open as we begin to prepare for Jr. Hoops basketball season targeting youth 11yrs-15yrs. Southwest Panthers dance team practice on Mondays 6:00pm-8:00pm.

**Adult Athletics:** Southwest Community Center is still looking to host a Women basketball league in the coming months. The league will consist of 10 teams. 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. We now offer low impact senior workout via video in which the numbers have grown to 15 participants aging from 50+

### **Special Events:**

We were the location for the retirement event for our colleague Karen L. Johnson. Family Jeopardy Night is held the last Monday of each month. Paint Night is held the first Wednesday of every Month. The monthly calendar event booklets are available for the community which include all information pertaining to our events, programs, activities and upcoming events.

### **ELR Community Center:**

Pre-Bid meeting has closed on the ELR renovation, there will be a contractor selected to perform the work from the bids received. IT held a walk thru on connections and drops to be done. Commercial air has worked on A/C in the gymnasium and clinic (building services). Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Continuing to assist in absence of supervisor and attend various meetings as scheduled, also will help with Aging & Active program as needed. Shared pictures/videos of Nathaniel Hills speech and short video given at ELR Senior program. Little Rock Police Department uses the back area/field for their dog training, as needed. 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 8 - 10 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:**

Held Mother Day Celebrations, May Day activity, had visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. West Central Seniors attended the Arkansas State Bean Bag Baseball tournament and "They Are The "STATE CHAMPOINS!" East Little Rock Seniors got to see and hear Nathaniel Hill History from him.

**Dunbar Seniors:** Senior Circle, Walking, Dominoes and Line Dancing Class, Bean Bag Baseball, Chair Exercise Class, and Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screenings.

**East Little Rock Seniors:** Mind Bending, Silver Foxes Dance Class, Ceramics, Puzzles, Adult Coloring, Uno Card Game, Jewelry Making, Funtastic Friday, Nutrition Class and Fish Fry Friday.

**Southwest Seniors:** Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Guest Speaker from Make A Wish Foundation, Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Healthy Food, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

**West Central Seniors:** Pickleball, Chair Volleyball vs Hayes Center and Sherwood Stars (both teams), Bean Bag Baseball Practice (both teams) AR Traveler Baseball Game, Let's Do Lunch Outing.

### **Therapeutic Recreation**

The TR Division is preparing for summer programs. Adult summer registration is in progress. The youth summer day camp is at full enrollment. Summer programs are June 10-July 19. Activities for summer camp include the Little Rock Zoo, MacArthur Military Museum, 4H Center, Museum of Discover, etc.

The Branch Out group hosted a booth at our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival which took place on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hall of Industry @AR State Fairgrounds. We rescheduled our Memphis Zoo outing for Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Travelers game outing for Wednesday, May 15.

\*\*Youth Summer Day Camp accepted 18 campers for this program. We are currently at 100% enrollment. Summer Day Camp will run June 10-July 19 and will be located at the War Memorial Clubhouse.

### **JDF & A**

There were 5 participants who passed the last session of the lifeguard training course. Started swim lessons registration on May 1, 2024, it was also, posted on Facebook. Completed their 8-week commit to fit challenges. The outdoor pool opened on May 25, 2024. They had a special event during the day “Fit and Fun in the Sun” and the pool entry fee was \$1 for that day. Job openings for lifeguard positions were posted. Baptist Health still comes to JDFAC monthly and conduct blood pressure checks for our participants.

### **The Centre at University Park**

The City Board held their monthly meeting. We received four recycling containers they are placed inside and outside of the building. Leaks are being addressed in various areas. The Centre is operating as usual. Continuing to keep the facility maintained and ready for use as needed/requested. Maintenance continues to work on the outside to beautify the Centre. No complaints. Our facility is still constantly being requested for meeting space and is being utilized regularly. We are continuing to accommodate other city departments on meeting space, access, and availability. The Centre held 21 Internal CLR meetings along with others for the month of May and the attendance was 1,321.

### **Youth Athletics**

Youth Soccer and baseball in in post-season play, weather continues to hamper playing days. Jr. Hoops are in full swing. It is played at Southwest and Dunbar community centers. Track & Field registration in going on and the meets are planned for this summer. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

### **Adult Athletics**

#### **Adult Softball Program**

Had team coaches meeting and set the start date for the women softball league to begin on May 15 but it had to be cancelled due to weather and started on May 23, 2024, with over 150 participants and spectators.

#### **Summer Playground Program**

Registration began on May 1 and will continue until all sites are full, the sites locations are Bale and Chicot Elementary's, and Hall for teen camp. We will also have sites at Dunbar, Stephens, and East Little Rock Community Centers. Field trips are being finalized.

Planning is going well and along with the field trips we added the outdoor recreation part with Mike Simmons. Which will include camping 101, Archy and other outdoor activities.

### **Allsop Park**

Ballfield rentals remain high and are booked until June 2, 2024.

### **First Tee Golf**

When we think of May, we think of Golf. Beautiful weather brings out all the golfers to First Tee. We had a wonderful turnout with the Monk Wade Junior tournament with the Arkansas State Golf Association. We had 117 junior golfers from all over the state participate in a two-day event here at First Tee. Not only them but parents', grandparents', cousins', and uncles also came to Little Rock for the two-day event. Continuing to do a little bit of tree trimming around the golf course and also

by the front entrance. Installed a new light at the roundabout area by the front gate, which can now be seen from University Avenue. This was mainly done for the safety of the staff both entering and leaving the facility during darker hours. The maintenance staff has done a great job of keeping the fairways in tip-top shape and the greens are better than they have ever been. We have heard people talking about the greens here at First Tee and we're very proud of the way the course looks right now. I have a great staff here at First Tee. Very proud of the work that they do. They are true professionals. Right now, I am in the beginning stages of gathering data of lost revenue due to not having cart paths on the golf course. This number is going to be a substantially high number for lost revenue. Not having a cart path on the golf course after rainy days leaves First Tee with no golfers on a bright sunny day. I would say around 70% of the people that come to First Tee want to drive a cart. Golf cart rentals are our number one selling item, not only revenue, but in quantity. Currently we are in the process of setting up different passes for golfers that would have recurring payments through our Square system. This is great because it's a continual revenue source for the golf course and it also provides discounts to the golfers by signing up for the pass. This is still in the early stages, but hopefully will have it up and running in the next month or so. First Tee Of Central Arkansas is in full swing with their classes and camps. Summer camp will be starting soon which brings a lot of the junior golfers out each day and especially on the weekends. Now, if you have not been to First Tee lately, you need to come out. Hit a bucket of balls play nine holes with your friends or family member and have a good time. Look forward to seeing you on the first tee!

### **Rebsamen Golf**

On May 20, we had 20 golfers in attendance for the Jack Gilbert outing netting \$700 in revenue. On May 22, we had 46 golfers in attendance from all over the state for our Ladies City Play Day netting \$1,196 in revenue.

On May 24, we had 16 golfers in attendance for the Mark Brown outing netting \$560 in revenue.

Revenue for this year so far is \$426,617.97 vs \$386,436.24 for last year.  
Showing an increase of \$40,181.73

### **Rebsamen Tennis**

The process for the new LED lights began about two months ago and is now done. The lights look great! Grand Re-Opening of the new lights scheduled for May 24. Held the Little Rock Open Tennis Championship May 26 – June 2, 2024. Working on a new Rebsamen Tennis logo. The new LED lighting installation is complete and have gotten lots of great compliments.

7 courts have been resurfaced. Working on getting the Rebsamen Facebook page updated. Will have weekend event/tournament every weekend from now until late June.

Raul Bermudez 25 participants Jr Programs, 15-20 adults

Janan Batchelor 40 participants Jr Programs, 10-15 adults

Brian Boland 10 participants Jr Programs

### **MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History**

1. Museum attendance for May was 3,081, which represents a 12% increase over May 2023 attendance. 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 included approximately 750 walk-in guests and over 850 visitors to special events. Total attendance for the first five months of 2024 is 20,962 which represents a 14% increase over last year.

2. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 484 new views during May for a total of 2,491 views for 2024. 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, and (4) *African American Soldiers in the Civil War*. The Reading Brigade's on-line programming concluded its 2023/2024 season 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. Throughout the eight months of the program a combined 7,200 students received on-line instruction weekly during the months of September through April.
3. The museum received \$775 in donations in May, bringing its total fundraising for 2024 to approximately \$14,893. This total is 19% above the museum's fundraising goal of \$12,500 for the period. Museum gift shop sales for the first five months of 2024 total \$4,787 and represent a 2% increase over the same period last year which was a record-breaking year for the museum.
4. Museum staff concluded weekly Afterschool programming at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers in May as well as monthly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy. During the Spring semester a total of 1,161 students were reached at the two community centers (602 at Dunbar and 559 at Stephens), and a total of 353 students were reached through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program (124 at Chicot and 230 at J.A. Fair).
5. During May, museum staff provided on-site tours for students from (1) Ridge Road Elementary, NLR, (2) Guy Perkins Elementary, (3) Wooster Elementary, (4) Calvary Academy, NLR, (5) Clarendon High School, and (6) St. Joseph's Catholic, Fayetteville. In addition, approximately 100 soldiers from the 9th Battalion Army Reserve Careers Group from St. Charles, Missouri received a special museum tour while attending a conference in Little Rock.
6. "Movies at MacArthur" screened the documentary *Dear Sirs* on May 21 to approximately 50 guests. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month from January – November and always include free admission, popcorn and beverages. The movie program is sponsored in 2024 by the law firm of Wright, Lindsey, and Jennings. Additional partners are Arkansas PBS, Marty and Tim Heiple, Stone's Throw Brewery, and the World War II Foundation.
7. The MacArthur Park Group celebrated the 15th anniversary of the MacArthur Park "History on the Run" 5K on May 3 with a record-breaking race. More than 270 people participated in the event, which included 214 runners and walkers who registered for the race. The 5K began behind the museum and took runners through the Pettaway and SOMA neighborhoods as well as throughout MacArthur Park. Approximately \$9,000 was raised for park improvements.
8. Over 40 people joined the "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour to the Pea Ridge National Military Park on May 4. Guests enjoyed lunch at the historic Headquarters House in Fayetteville before spending the afternoon touring the expansive battlefield at Pea Ridge. The next bus tour is scheduled for September 14 and will include Civil War sites associated with Helena and the Little Rock Campaign. A tour of sites associated with the Camden Expedition is planned for March 2025.
9. Approximately 55 family members and friends attended the spring recital for students of the Margaret Wyatt Piano and Vocal Studio on Sunday May 19. Ms. Wyatt's students have been performing their spring and winter recitals at the museum for over 10 years.
10. Museum staff participated in the Museum of Discovery's "Science After Dark" outreach on May 23. Over 100 people visited the museum table and learned more about the museum and its programming.
11. The museum was featured in an article in the *Arkansas Living's* May 2024 issue. The magazine is produced monthly by the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives and distributed to members of the 17 electric cooperatives across the state.

<https://arkansaslivingmagazine.com/story/saluting-those-who-served/>



12. The museum was featured in an article by Jack Schnedler in the Tuesday, May 21 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The article was written to commemorate the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

<https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/282703347207004>

13. Upcoming special events in June include: (1) "Stars and Stripes Celebration" Flag Day concert by the Little Rock Winds on June 9 at 7:00 p.m. and (2) Movies at MacArthur, *The Berlin Airlift*, on June 18 at 6:30 p.m. A flyer for the June movie is attached.

### **Outdoor Recreation**

The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded an AmeriCorps, NCCC team. This was the second team awarded to Parks this year. A full report on this current team's contributions to the department will be submitted in June. This is a summation of the jobs AmeriCorps has completed: The team has assisted with maintenance at the following parks: Interstate, Conner, War Memorial, River Mountain, River Front, Boyle, Allsopp North, Rebsamen, Murray, William E. Clark Wetlands, McArthur and Otter Creek. They assisted with weed eating, picking up trash, brush clearing, painting and trail work. The team also assisted with set-up/clean-up for Employee Appreciation events and the Arts Festival. Initial conversations have begun with AmeriCorps/NCCC's Assistant Director of Programming to discuss how Little Rock Parks & Rec could possibly develop a MOU/MOA with AmeriCorps NCCC for future projects and team assignments. Mountain bike rides at Boyle Park are being offered each Mondays at 6pm. Attendance has ranged from just a few riders to more than a dozen. Road bike rides on the Arkansas River Trail (meeting at Murray Park) are being offered each Wednesday at 6pm. Attendance has ranged from 1 rider to 5 riders. The "Walk in the Park" program is being offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm at War Memorial, Murray and Allsopp North Parks. Attendance has ranged from 2 to 6 participants. Contact has been made with Lauren Marshall, a programmer at the Wit Stevens Nature Center, about using AR Game & Fish archery equipment for the Summer Playground program and having Lauren do programs for the campers. Meetings have occurred with Dustin Slaughter, a bike race promoter, and Brannon Husten, of the Ozark Foundation, about a bike race at River Mt Park in Oct. This will be the second year in a row this race will occur. Preliminary goals have been set for marketing and trail maintenance. Follow-up meetings are set for July and August. Meetings have occurred with the Head of Operations, the office Parks Design and Outdoor Recreation to discuss and plan the Rebsamen Archery Range renovation project. Site visits have occurred, and preliminary designs are in the works. Weekly update meetings are set. Preliminary plans are set for a trail running event in Allsopp South on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The event will be a 6-hour trail running challenge with a Sasquatch theme. The event will be called "Squatch 'till you Drop". All Commission members are invited to attend. A "Pop-up" disc golf event is set for June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm at War Memorial. The event is free and will be held monthly through November 2024. Plans have been set for the Bike Rodeo to be held at the Southwest Community Center on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Outdoor Recreation will lead group rides and teach bike safety. The event is being offered in collaboration with the 501C3 Recycled Bike for Kids and the Dee Brown library. Plans have been discussed to expand Outdoor Recreation's digital footprint by establishing a dedicated Facebook/Instagram account. Preliminary discussions have occurred with Rock City Rental to establish a MOU to have rental bikes available for Outdoor Recreation programs (road rides and trail rides). Plans are being finalized for Outdoor Recreation to provide programming for the Summer Playground Program, Therapeutic Recreation's summer program and West Central's summer program.