



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 1/15/2025

Senior Programs: Active and Aging

The Aging & Active program returned from Thanksgiving break and started to prepare for their next Holiday Christmas. West Central held a bean Bag Baseball All-Star Game on December 5, along with polish sausage chili day. East Little Rock & Southwest celebrated the holiday on December 20.

East Little Rock, Southwest & Stephens Community Centers

These centers are under renovations and will be updated with flooring, lights and an overall brighter and appealing look.

Therapeutic Recreation

The month of December we had our Annual Therapeutic Recreation Christmas Program, it was held at Fellowship Bible Church in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs Ministry on December 19, we had a cast of 21 participants for this performance.

Southwest Community Center

Our cheerleaders continue to shine in the community, they participated in the Annual Southwest Christmas Parade on Saturday December 7, 2024. On December 5, 2024, we partnered with the Pulaski County Lawyer Association to provide a free service to those in need of clearing their records, over 250 participants attended.

MacArthur Museum of Military History

On-site visitation included 458 walk-in guests and 204 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, guests came from 20 states – as well as six foreign countries – Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, India, and South Korea.

Outdoor Recreation

Work has begun on mapping and layout for a new disc golf at Reservoir Park. Mapping of the old course layout and proposed layout provided by Crowell Engineering was done with Park's GPS/GIS specialist. The Cyclocross State Championships were held at War Memorial on 12/21/24.

First-Tee Golf

Although we experienced some slower periods this month, we have successfully maintained the golf course by clearing leaves and conducting tree trimming. Additionally, we promoted gift card sales for the upcoming holiday season. As we approach the end of the year, we are eagerly anticipating the 2025 golf season and the opportunities it will bring, including the introduction of new participants in this cherished sport.

Youth Athletics

Youth Basketball Season starts next month, registration is still going on at each location, the goal was to have at least 350 youth registered and to date there are 360.



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Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center wrapped up this month. Youth enjoyed our annual holiday meal on December 13th and received gifts from the center. Gifts included stuffed animals, games of their choice and Christmas pencils. We will start registration for the second semester on the 2nd of January online.

Youth Basketball Program

This month we continued practicing basketball our season start date is January 2025. All our teams added scrimmage games against each other to help prepare for the season. No practices were held during the LRSD Christmas break.

Free Play

During the last two weeks of the month the center was open to all youth to attend for free play in the gym. Staff was on hand to keep the youth safe and interacted with them in pick-up basketball.

Special Event

We hosted a Christmas paint party which was opened to anyone who wanted to attend. Participants chose from an assortment of designs the picture they wanted to paint. All pictures were relevant to Christmas. Fruit bags were gifted to all who came, and Christmas music played in the background.

Stephens Community Center

Star Student Afterschool Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program was a success for the first semester as we ended our participation with 48 kids signed up. The Afterschool Program had a great Christmas party on December 12, 2024. We gave the kids a snack bag with jellybeans in a Christmas ornament, apples, and oranges. They were also given pizza and a juice box. We also had them make their own Santa Clause where they had to color Santa and glue cotton on him to make his beard.

Youth Sports Program

Stephens had a total of (4) four teams for Basketball. We have 3–4-year-old, K-1st grade, 2-3 grade, and 4-5 grade. We also brought in a team; Olivia Chosen. We have been practicing at West Central and Dunbar Community Centers.

Facility Vacancies:

2-Activity Assistants, and 2-Part-Time or 1 -Full Time Custodian

Maintenance:

Renovations for the building are going well. They have started putting the front desk together. The countertops to the bathroom and sinks have been placed but still in need of installment. The office has been painted and with new floors. In the kitchen area the upper and lower cabinets have been installed.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

West Central has approximately 180 participants for basketball season. Registration ends December 1st. We have 15 cheerleaders and have ordered new uniforms to begin their first season. Basketball practice has begun for all 20 West Central Teams.

Karate/Dance: The Karate and Dance programs have been on break most of December and will come back at the beginning of the year and will perform during halftime during the basketball season.

West Central CC:

We co-hosted Meet & Greet Toy Drive with Santa with the Black Fire Fighter Association. This event was held in the Gym and had a crowd of approximately 200 people. Little Rock Fire Department held their annual picture with Santa on December 21st for the Ward 6 Community.

Rentals:

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

Maintenance:

All requests have been fulfilled.

All flowerbeds have been mulched for the season. The construction on the baseball fields will start soon.

Employment:

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant and evening front desk receptionist to hire. Requisitions have gone out for these positions.

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: The afterschool Star Student Program enrollment numbers remain low, but we hope to see the increase once the afterschool transportation Pilot program has been approved. The Jr. Botanist program will restart in the spring with the focus educating our youth and teens on the importance of trees and plants. Jr. Botanist will meet every Thursday 6:00p.m. and Saturday 10:00a.m. Our weekly Art program is continuing to grow with a consistent 15-20 participants attending every Wednesday 6:00p.m. This month the group focused on creating holiday ornaments.

Youth Athletics: We have a total of 7 basketball teams registered to participate in the youth basketball league which will begin January 6, 2025. Teams practice twice a week at 6pm at Dunbar Community until the renovation is complete at Southwest Community Center. Our cheerleaders continue to shine in the community, they participated in the Annual Southwest Christmas Parade on Saturday December 7, 2024.

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 will start up again in March collaborating with Pulaski County Youth Services, we look to serve at least 200 youth during this program. On December 5, 2024, we partnered with the Pulaski County Lawyer Association to provide a free service to those in need of clearing their records, over 250 participants attended. On November 28, 2024, ministries community church along with Southwest Community center hosted a soulful gathering from 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m. 150 participants attended. Donation of clothing and food were received during the two hours. Renovations at the facility begin on December 6, 2024, focusing on remodeling the gymnasium, banquet hall and entrance area. The project is going well.

ELR Community Center

Starting to do work on the inside of the gymnasium. Work on the roof is complete. Painting the rooms on the breezeway, still installing lights in the gymnasium, 2 additional rooms were added, and work will continue until the projects are completed. The neighborhood meetings are still cancelled due to the ongoing renovation project and were 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 with Active & Aging program and attend various meetings as scheduled. Little Rock Police Department continue to use 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 as weather permits. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 8 – 10 people. 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

The Aging & Active program returned from Thanksgiving break and started to prepare for their next Holiday Christmas. West Central held a bean Bag Baseball All-Star Game on December 5, along with polish sausage chili day. East Little Rock & Southwest celebrated the holiday on December 20. Baptist Health Monthly Screening and Outreach, Sage Health, and Oak Street Clinic continues to visit the various sites. Baptist Health continues their outreach at each center monthly. East Little Rock, Dunbar, Southwest, and West Central celebrated December Birthdays in various ways (from parties to shopping outings). They all 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 month of December we had our Annual Therapeutic Recreation Christmas Program, it was held at Fellowship Bible Church in partnership with their Embrace Special Needs Ministry on December 19, we had a cast of 21 participants for this performance. We also had our last workday at the Little Rock Zoo. The TR Branch Out group decorated the tree and hung wreaths on the office doors at the Parks and Recreation at City Hall. This event took place on Dec. 5th. We will return to the zoo in March when the weather turns. The TR Branch Out program ended the Fall Session on December 20 with a Holiday PJ Party.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

In December 2024, the facility sold a total of 1,729 monthly memberships, marking an increase from the 1,415 memberships sold in December 2023.

FITNESS

The 17 fitness classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well.

AQUATICS

The 6 aquatic classes at Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center are performing exceptionally well.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

For the month of December, Baptist Health Community Outreach conducted a monthly blood pressure checks for our members and visitors, with a total of 12 individuals taking advantage of these services.

The Centre at University Park

The Centre has been on a joyride the month of December. We have enjoyed every meeting, party and much more. Catering to the needs of others is what we enjoy doing as a team. We started the month off with 100 active-duty police officers and cadets for an active shooter training. What a way to kick off the month! We then had the end of the year wrap up meeting with the directors and supervisor roles, it was great motivation for the upcoming year and how we will excel but also acknowledge the growth everyone has had in 2024. We're also so pleased to welcome our regularly meetings such as: NUSA, Work order, Age friendly and the Parks Commission. Our facility is the hub for so many departments within the city and it gave us holiday joy

to see the Christmas events as well that we held here. The Housing Department hosting its annual Christmas gathering with 200 people to come eat, fellowship and enjoy each other's company. That also led into the Parks Christmas gathering. Though the holidays are over the joy of the Centre never leaves. We're so thankful for a month of greatness and new opportunities.

Youth Athletics

Youth Basketball Season starts next month, registration is still going on at each location, the goal was to have at least 350 youth registered and to date there are 360. They have done skills & drills and are now into their team practices. Games sites have been established due to ongoing facility renovations. Registration is still open for cheerleading. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

Adult Athletics

Interstate/Allsop Park Program

Field Rental reservations have ended for the year.

LRSD

Will have LR Central home softball games at Interstate.

Adult Softball Program

Interstate Adult softball registration for the spring league will begin January 15, 2025, for Men, women, coed and church league.

Summer Playground Program

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

First Tee Golf

As we conclude this year, it is essential to reflect on our accomplishments. This year, we have successfully increased revenue at First Tee and welcomed numerous new and returning customers. A significant factor contributing to this success is the exceptional condition and quality of our golf course. It is paramount that we secure the necessary funding and resources to achieve our goals. While we occasionally encounter challenges in obtaining funding for specific projects within our organization, we must remember our primary objective: to provide recreational activities for the citizens of Little Rock and surrounding areas. Golf plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life, offering a sport that families can enjoy together. With this in mind, we are in the process of developing various golf pass options for 2025, catering not only to individuals but also to families. Although we experienced some slower periods this month, we have successfully maintained the golf course by clearing leaves and conducting tree trimming. Additionally, we promoted gift card sales for the upcoming holiday season. As we approach the end of the year, we are eagerly anticipating the 2025 golf season and the opportunities it will bring, including the introduction of new participants in this cherished sport.

Rebsamen Golf

Reading course for the cold times coming up. We had over 40 ladies in attendance for our weekly lady's day for the month of December slower than normal. Revenue for 2024 is still up 5% over 2023. Nike products has been approved to be ordered and will be stocked for 2025, in the pro shop. May have to cover greens sooner than normal, if the temperatures continue to fall and get to freezing. Looking to hire more staff in the beginning of the year.

Rebsamen Tennis

USTA singles leagues going very strong through December and into January. Monday night Rebsamen Singles league continuing through end of year (10-12 courts each week) and through the winter. Raul and Janan junior development groups going strong and are year-round (two week break for the holidays) Hired three new part time tennis aide positions, excited to have them on board. Working on filling out the 2025 tournament and league schedules. Being told that a large majority of USTA teams using public facilities are staying at Rebsamen or moving to Rebsamen due to the new court lights (great news!)

Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for December (through 12/30) was 2018. This number included: (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 484 walk-in guests and 204 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, guests came from 20 states – Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah – as well as six foreign countries – Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, India, and South Korea. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 469 new views during December for a total of 5,965 views for 2024. Total attendance for 2024 is 43,415, which exceeds 2023 attendance by 0.5%. 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 December, 199 children received instruction through this weekly outreach. Another 65 students were reached through the monthly 21st Century Program at J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy. During the fall semester, a total of 1,229 contacts were made with the After School Program as well as 192 contacts with the 21st Century Program. The museum raised \$3,828 in December through donations bringing its total fundraising in 2024 to \$35,000, exceeding its goal by 17%. Donations included \$1,670 from the Aesthetic Club, \$1,000 from the Carl H. Miller, Jr. Foundation, \$500 from former Commissioner Paula Furlough and \$300 from current Commissioner Pat Hoy. Gift shop sales for December were \$695 for a total of \$11,121 in 2024, which represents the gift shop's 3rd best year since the museum opened in 2001. The museum continues to host the traveling exhibit *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon*. On loan from Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO the exhibit will remain through January 5, 2025. After its de-installation, the museum will host another traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA. *War Toys: Ukraine* will open in early February and remain through August 11. The museum hosted AMR Architects on December 20 for a presentation on their winning design for the proposed MacArthur Unleashed shade structure. AMR presented a tentative budget for the project and discussed potential funding sources with the MacArthur Park Group and other interested parties. The museum and the Arkansas Koran War Veterans Memorial were included in an article about local tourism in the December 31 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. "Little Rock Offers Tours Covering All Sorts of Sights" by Jack Schnedler listed the various theme-oriented tours promoted by the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, including the "Little Rock Military History Tour" covering 14 locations. Special meetings and tours of the museum in December included: Seventy-seven members of the Aesthetic Club on December 10. Forty-five students and teachers from Bismarck Elementary School on December 18. Approximately forty family and friends for the holiday recital by students from the Margaret Wyatt Vocal and Piano Studio on December 22.

Outdoor Recreation

Work has begun on mapping and layout for a new disc golf at Reservoir Park. Mapping of the old course layout and proposed layout provided by Crowell Engineering was done with Park's GPS/GIS specialist. A meeting has been scheduled for the second week of January with the state PDGA's director (Professional Disc Golf Association) to discuss a proposal for an alternative course layout. A meeting with the director of ORCA (Orienteering of Central Arkansas) has been scheduled for early January to discuss layout and instillation of several orienteering courses in city parks. The final pop-up disc golf event of 2024 was held on 12/21/24 at War Memorial from 11am-3pm. Pop-up disc golf will resume in March 2025. The first event will take place on March 15th at MacArthur Park from 10am-4pm. I was the MC for the Ugly Sweeter 5k run on 12/21/24. This is the 3rd event I have MCed. I will be the MC for the 5k & 10k event on the weekend of the Little Rock Marathon. The Cyclocross State Championships were held at War Memorial on 12/21/24. I coordinated the event with the race promoters and oversaw the event on the day of. Weekly "Winter Wonders" (evening hikes at various parks) have been scheduled from 12/17/24 through late February. Work has begun on developing programming for Kanis Park. Programming will include basketball, skateboarding and birding activities. Preliminary work has begun on developing archery programming for the planned renovations of the range at Rebsamen Park. Work has been tentatively scheduled to begin in late Winter, '25.