



Parks Commission Recreation - Report 5/14/2025

All Hands-on Deck

The entire Recreation Division came together as ONE and participated in the First Mobile City Hall event on April 7, 2025 @ Longley Baptist Church we set up various outdoor games/activities, as well as indoors with a table with giveaways and a chance to spin the wheel for other small trinkets/prizes. The next Mobile City Hall is scheduled for Monday May 5, 2025 @ St. Mark Baptist Church located at 5722 West 12th Street.

Therapeutic Recreation

The TR Division will host the 23rd Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival on May 2, 2025, from 10:00am-1:00pm at the AR State Fairgrounds Hall of Industry. This annual event is in celebration of therapeutic recreation and provides a unique opportunity for the disability community to engage with children with special needs in Little Rock and across Central Arkansas. This event is free to attend.

Museum of Arkansas Military History

The museum partnered with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month on April 9 with music from the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America. The Shades of Blue jazz ensemble played a free concert at the Clinton Library to over 325 people. The museum hosted the first meeting of Freedom Sings Arkansas on April 14. The non-profit's mission is to work with veterans and active-duty military to tell their stories through the process of songwriting. Local songwriters will meet with area veterans at the museum on the second Monday of each month.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation held pop-up disc golf, group bike rides, an orienteering clinic, and a fishing program with our Therapeutic Recreation Program at Boyle Park. Continuing to prepare for the Parks Summer Youth Camp and the Second Annual "Squatch Till You Drop" event.

Rebsamen Tennis

Our second tournament of the year, the Little Rock L4 National tournament was held over Easter weekend, had about 200 participants from 20 states including as far as California. Rain affected the tournament for ½ a day but still was an overall success. We are gearing up for the Annual Little Rock Open Men's Tournament next month on May 25, 2025 – June 1, 2025.

First-Tee/Rebsamen Golf

First-Tee had "The Day at the Masters Tournament" it was a tremendous success, held on our Par-3 course. This parent-child event is one of my favorites to participate in. Despite the heavy rain this month, we were able to host the US Kids Tournament on the 13th, which attracted over 80 participants, along with family and friends from across the state and nearby states. Rebsamen hosted the Catholic High School Father Tribou Memorial 4 Person Scramble with 308 golfers in attendance, Bruce Jenkins Memorial Junior Golf Championship which had 75 kids in attendance and the women's ASGA designated tournament, the Eclectic, with 54 golfers in attendance.



Parks Commission – Recreation Report

Dunbar Community Center

After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program. Youth are fed a meal from an outside organization and involved in organized activities.

Indoor Youth Sports Program

We are still recruiting and signing up participants to play in our spring leagues. Soccer games have started all other games are set to start soon.

Outdoor Youth Programs

Spring programs include track, baseball and soccer, all are co-ed. Soccer started at the beginning of the month and so far, has been good but had one rained out Saturday. Other sports have not started yet. We have one T-ball team, three baseball teams and four soccer teams.

Stephens Community Center

Star Student Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program is coming along just fine. We have 43 registered participants (86%).

Youth Sports Program

Programs for the Spring are Soccer, Baseball and T-Ball. We have 4 teams for Soccer. Soccer is going well. Baseball and T-Ball participants are meeting each week for practice.

Adult Activities:

The Men's 40 & Over League is right around the corner. We are still waiting for the center to open.

Facility Vacancies:

1-Programmer, 2-Activity Assistants, 2-Part-Time Custodian or 1-Full Time Custodian.

Maintenance:

We are on the Reno stage which is an ongoing process. The air unit has been installed. Wall Padding has been done and Baseboard Trim needs to be done. Work Orders placed for Service on the Alarm, Security System, Phones and computers.

West Central Community Center

Youth Sports Program:

Youth soccer is going well with 44 participants. Tee-ball/Baseball registration has ended, and we have 196 participants to make 19 teams. The season will start May 19th at interstate park.

Karate/Dance: The Karate and Dance programs have resumed, and participants are paying their monthly dues. Dance has improved their participation with 15 students. Karate students are learning and moving up their belt statuses.

West Central CC:

Started a new line dance program for both morning and evening with JT Line dancers. We are preparing for the upcoming opening of the new baseball fields.

Rentals:

The center had a total of 15 rentals for the month. These rentals include meeting with human resources and neighborhood association meetings.

Maintenance:

We have requested the air conditioning unit in the gym.

Employment:

We have a concessionaire, activity assistant and evening front desk receptionist to hire. Need new requisitions. Currently looking at applications.

Southwest Community Center

Youth Programs: The afterschool Star Student Program enrollment numbers remain low, but we hope to see the increase seeing that our afterschool transportation Pilot program has begun. Our youth programs are down in enrollment at the time due to the renovation and construction going on at the facility.

Youth Athletics: We have a total of 4 baseball teams aging 6u, 8u, 10u, and 12u. Our cheerleaders continue to shine in the community track and field and football has opened and recruiting at the schools, neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

Adult Athletics: Dance workout is held every Tuesday and Thursday 6pm-7pm averaging 30 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: Due to the renovations, we are now beginning to participate in more community events. April 26, 2025, our team will be set up at the Upper baseline block party speaking with participants regarding our programs, events and activities that we offer at the community center. We will also be bringing Southwest Steppers to perform several line dances. Also, we will be participating in the Black Nurses Association event from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. at 3701 Springer BLVD.

ELR Community Center

I participated in the Mobile City Hall event held at Longley Baptist Church on April 7, 2025, along with other Parks & Recreation staff. The renovations are coming to an end and the facility looks good. There are still some upgrades going on in various rooms. There will soon be offices built for the Little Rock Marathon to move into. The neighborhood association held their first meeting there since August, and there were lots of smiles. Individuals are utilizing the tennis court area for skateboarding. Four trees have been planted to spruce up the front lawn as all the hedges have been removed. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintains and mulch the flower islands as needed. Continuing to assist supervisor, help 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, (weather permitting). The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness as the weather permits. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 7 - 9 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

**** Membership February – December \$1.50 per month. Registration at all sites will be continuous.**

The Aging & Active program held their Easter activities. West Central Seniors hosted East LR and Dunbar for their Friday Fish Fry. West Central also is working on completing their second quilt. West Central continues to be strong Beanbag Baseball teams. All sites are preparing for their upcoming activities for the month of May which will include some fun Mother's Day, Cinco De Mayo, and May Day activities.

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 where they distribute healthy fresh foods. East Little Rock, Dunbar, Southwest, and West Central celebrated April Birthdays in various ways. They all also are continuing their outings, sports competition, field trips, crafts, such as bottle flowers, jewelry, quilting, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, t-shirts, and coloring.

Dunbar Seniors: Easter project, potluck, Music, Thursday field trips, 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: Easter activity, 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: St. Patrick's Day activity, Bowling, movies, Skip-Bo, Pool Competition, Card Games, Bingo, Bible Study, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Baptist Health Speaker, Monthly Screenings and Healthy Food Outreach, Arts & Crafts, Table Games, Ring Toss, Pool, Cooking Class, Funday Friday.

West Central Seniors: Nursing Facility Outreach, Quilting, iPad class, table games, 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 Division will host the 23rd Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival on May 2, 2025, from 10:00am-1:00pm at the AR State Fairgrounds Hall of Industry. This annual event is in celebration of therapeutic recreation and provides a unique opportunity for the disability community to engage with children with special needs in Little Rock and across Central Arkansas by providing make it take it craft projects, games, hands-on experiences, etc. for children that attend this free event. Booths are provided by organizations, agencies, and businesses that either provide services for the disability community or have an interest in being a part of their community as a whole. This is a great way for agencies to network and for teachers and families to learn more about services available for their children. The event will include 35 booths, a magician, a photo booth, arts and crafts, recreation activities and a dance contest!

****TR Youth Summer Day Camp Registration opened on April 1st.** The TR Summer Day Camp will be located at Fulbright Elementary School. Enrollment is full with 19 campers registered. We do allow for a waiting list.

The camp will run as follow: Monday-Friday June 9 -July 18

Time: 8:30 am-3:30 pm

The Therapeutic Recreation Division uses education and recreation services to help people with disabilities develop and enhance their quality of life. This day camp is a therapeutic based program that emphasizes fun recreational activities for people with special needs to promote the development of motor skills, social skills, independence and other related areas. This camp is active, and days are filled with games, swimming, community outings, arts and crafts and more.

Each child completes an assessment process and receives an Individual Recreation Plan completed by the TR staff. This plan includes goals for each camper that staff will work on intensively throughout the camp process. Progress notes are completed daily to evaluate each camper's progress.

The TR Volunteer Crew/Branch Out group will be working with the TR staff to prepare for the 23rd Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival. This will include planning, packing supplies and learning more about working with the children in attendance. The Branch Out group will host a booth with assistance from TR staff and parent volunteers.

We are excited to also have Little Rock Outdoor Recreation, Little Rock Parks and Recreation, Little Rock Marathon, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, Southwest Community Center and Jim

Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center attending this event and providing a booth to share their programs as well as support the TR Division and all the special needs children that will be in attendance.

The TR Volunteer Crew will have their final workday for the spring session at the Little Rock Zoo on Thursday, May 8th.

The Branch Out group will wrap up Spring session with the annual DeGray Lake Boat Tour on Thursday, May 15. This has become a favorite outing over the years and allows participants to have an experience they don't always have access to in their every day.

Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

MEMBERSHIPS

The facility experienced a significant increase in memberships sold during April 2025, with 2,061 new memberships compared to 1,501 in April 2024. Total facility attendance for the month reached 12,028, up from 7,102 in April 2024.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to trend upward. The increase in membership sales and programming contributed to the higher foot traffic, totaling 12,028 visits for April 2025, a notable rise from 7,102 in the same period last year.

REVENUE

Revenue collection for April 2025 showed marked improvement, totaling \$49,846.50, compared to \$30,025.50 collected in April 2024.

FITNESS

The center currently offers 19 fitness classes, all of which are performing exceptionally well and continue to see strong participation.

AQUATICS

There are 6 aquatic classes offered at the facility, with consistent attendance and positive feedback from participants.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Baptist Health Community Outreach provided monthly blood pressure checks in April, with 17 participants utilizing the service.

The Spring Swim Lesson Session began on April 3rd, with 23 participants enrolled. The 8-week session is held on Saturdays for children ages 3 and up.

A Swim Stroke Improvement Class concluded on April 17th, with 17 registered participants. The course focused on stroke technique, and feedback from attendees was very positive.

On April 5th, the center hosted an Aquathon Event, challenging participants to swim as many laps as possible in 45 minutes. 18 individuals participated, with medals awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers.

The Easter Egg Dive, held on April 13th at the indoor pool, was a major success. This unique aquatic twist on a traditional Easter egg hunt drew over 150 attendees and featured activities, food, goody bags, and the dive itself.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MAY 2025

May 24th – Outdoor Pool Opening (Dollar Day)

May 31st – Boot Camp in the Park, hosted at War Memorial Park (North Lawn)

The Centre at University Park

April showers bring May flowers, we were showered here at The Centre at University Park this month. We had so many wonderful meetings and even celebrations, also having some new faces to join us this month. It's always wonderful to see the work order (48) meetings going forth and making sure everything is in order and operation. The I.T. team (80) had an awesome retreat/ training gearing up some important tools to not only help them but us as well. We love to see what the LR Marathon does within the city because it's always top of the line. They hosted a volunteer celebration (70) in the Big Easy fashion, bringing New Orleans to Little Rock. Parks commission (26) is on the roll as always bringing attention to what's at hand for the present and future. The ODEI team (20) were a new face but never a stranger as well as the Civil Engineering team (80), both hosted informative meetings to help our people within each department. We can never leave out the Age and Friendly group (10), they had an outstanding meeting and fellowship as well. In all April has been an outstanding month and we can't wait to see what's in store for the months to come.

Youth Athletics

Soccer

The 2025 soccer season began on April 12, 2025, with a total of 136 participants. Games are played on Saturdays at Southwest Community Center and West Central Community Center, if played indoors. The league consists of 19 total teams. We are going into the 3rd week of games. The season is estimated to end on May 31st.

Co-Ed Baseball/Tee-ball:

The 2025 baseball season will commence on May 12th, 2025. Games will be played Monday through Thursday at Interstate Park. There will be a total of 276 participants and the total number of teams will be determined on a later date. The league will run for approximately 7 weeks including tournament play. The coaches meeting is to be held on Monday, April 28th at West Central Community starting at 6pm. The league schedules will be sent out on Wednesday, April 30th and team jerseys will be available for pick up between May 5-May 9 at West Central Community Center.

Track and Field

The 2025 track and field meets are scheduled for June 14th and June 28th. There are currently 48 participants registered, and the registration ends on May 30th. The meets will be held at Scotts Field once approved by the Little Rock School District. Flyer for track and field will also be distributed with approval of location.

Enrollment

Soccer: Dunbar: 33; Southwest: 27; Stephens: 28; West Central: 48...**Total: 136**

Baseball: Dunbar: 14; Southwest: 26, Stephens: 21; West Central: 148...**Total: 209**

Tee-ball: Dunbar: 10; Southwest: 4; Stephens: 8; West Central: 45; **Total: 67**

Track and Field: Dunbar: 30; Southwest: 6; Stephens: 2; West Central: 10...**Total: 48**

Adult Athletics

Interstate Park Program

Field usage for Interstate sports complex has increased with the Sunday kickball league and Central high school team utilizing the field three. Also because of the construction of West central complex the community centers are also utilizing the sports complex along with other outside teams renting field for their practices.

Adult Softball Program

The professional corporate league which consisted of 15 teams last year, will begin playing the first week of June 2,2025. Have begun to work on the fall ball spring league only had 2 teams to sign up. Youth softball and baseball will play at Interstate this year due to West central being under construction.

Summer Playground Program

We are preparing for the summer program for 2025 in which registration will start online May 1, 2025. Met with Mike Simmons about new outdoor opportunities for the program this year.

Allsop Park

Allsop softball field has a total of 85 reservations as of April 24, 2025. The Hilcrest organization rents the fields for their youth baseball league.

First Tee Golf

Spring is in the air, and the golf season is progressing smoothly.

We have been quite busy here at First Tee over the past month. The Day at the Masters Tournament was a tremendous success, held on our par-3 course. This parent-child event is one of my favorites to participate in. Despite the heavy rain this month, we were able to host the US Kids Tournament on the 13th, which attracted over 80 participants, along with family and friends from across the state and nearby states.

We have begun exploring the proposal for building a cart barn to house our golf carts. Director Couch, along with the designer and staff from the First Tee of Central Arkansas, have met several times regarding this project. It also involves a private donation from a family to the First Tee organization, which will help fund a pavilion on the driving range for the First Tee of Central Arkansas. We are very excited about this development.

Rounds of golf continue to increase as we see many new faces visiting our facility. More people are not only practicing on the driving range but are also playing the course because they have never experienced it before. As I always say, word of mouth is critical in golf. If you have good greens and fairways, they will come.

I want to give a huge shout-out to our maintenance crew and the Urban Forestry Division for their efforts in cleaning up the seven trees we lost during the storms earlier this month. This demonstrates how effective communication and teamwork can be. I would also like to recognize staff member Larry Lance for his attention to detail with the flowers around our building. Larry takes great pride in keeping the flowers healthy, watered, and trimmed. A good first impression is essential for any facility.

Additionally, I want to commend staff member Jerry White, who has gone above and beyond to help pick up golf balls on the driving range, especially when we are shorthanded or preparing for an event. This level of commitment and pride is what makes having a good staff so important.

The Monk Wade Junior event, hosted by the Arkansas State Golf Association, is scheduled for May 10 and 11. This is a significant junior event for Central Arkansas, bringing together over 100 youth and their families from surrounding states and throughout Arkansas for a big two-day tournament.

As we continue to strive for success in 2025, I am looking forward to the coming months filled with warm days, sunshine, and happy faces. Something I love seeing every day here at First Tee. If you haven't visited First Tee lately or ever, I invite you to come out, check out our facility, and bring your golf clubs!

Rebsamen Golf

There were several rainy days this month. On April 24 and 25 we hosted the Catholic High School Father Tribou Memorial 4 Person Scramble with 308 golfers in attendance. April 26 and 27 we hosted the Bruce Jenkins Memorial Junior Golf Championship which had 75 kids in attendance. April 29 and 30 we host the women's ASGA designated tournament, the Eclectic, with 54 golfers in attendance. The RWGA (Rebsamen Women's Golf Association) continues to play each Wednesday every month there has been 60+ ladies participating despite the rainy days.

Rebsamen Tennis

April prime month for team tennis. Lots of USTA team matches throughout the month with the season ending in mid-May. Seven rainy days in April so we are also trying to make up rained out team tennis matches as we get through May. We currently have over 50 USTA spring team tennis teams playing their seasons with Rebsamen being their home courts (our courts will be completely full-on weeknights and Sundays until mid-May with team tennis). Our second tournament of the year, the Little Rock L4 national tournament over Easter weekend, had about 200 participants from 20 states including as far as California. Rain affected the tournament for ½ a day but still overall success. We had a tennis mixer on April with 12 players, the goal is to continue to have one of these about once a month as they continue to grow. The first adult tournament of the year, the Rock City Rally (April 4-6), had about 100 players, mostly from in town, good success. Raul and Janan's programs are now currently going strong. Rebsamen Monday singles league continuing but with smaller numbers through team tennis season. Monday "Lasso" men's doubles league on Monday nights has begun and runs through October (entering its 26th year). Little Rock Open men's professional tennis tourney is May 25-June 1, 2025.

***As a reminder, there was a fire on Wednesday, March 19 in the woods behind courts 8-12. We had to evacuate the facility around 5:00 PM as the fire approached the back of courts 9-12. Fire department were able to get the fire out right before it got to those courts. We lost a few windscreens on those courts but were overall lucky as it could have been much worse. The area is very burnt back in those woods that stretch towards Boyle Park Rd. It continued to smolder for several days but gets better each day.

Museum of Arkansas Military History

Museum attendance for April was 3,227. 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 624 walk-in guests and 512 visitors to special events, tours, etc. during the month. In addition to Arkansas, guests came from 27 states – Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – as well as from Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, Guatemala, the Philippines and Switzerland. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 1031 views in April including more than 450 views of the two presentations by Dr. Curt Fields as General and President Grant on March 25 and 26. Off-site programming reached 275 children at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy. Additional off-site special events included the Mobile City Hall on April 7, the "Shades of Blue" concert at the Clinton Presidential Center on April 9, and the QQA Preview Party on April 14.

For the first four months of 2025 the museum has raised \$22,421 through donations and sponsorships, which is 74% of the annual goal of raising \$30,000. Gift shop sales for April were \$931.76 for a total of \$3146.61 so far this year.

War Toys: Ukraine, a traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, has been extended through September 28. The exhibit features photographs by Brian McCarty in conjunction with artwork drawn by Ukrainian children in the summer of 2022 following the Russian invasion. Museum staff have finalized partnership opportunities with staff from the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts to host field trips to the exhibit by students in its summer programs as well as a panel discussion featuring Brian McCarty on September 18 at AMFA.

David Collins joined the museum staff as Museum Program Assistant on April 7. Mr. Collins has a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from UCA with a major in Secondary Social Studies. He has over six years of experience teaching in schools in Central Arkansas, most recently as the EAST facilitator at

Lonoke Public School District. He also has a Master of Arts in History from UCA and a Master of Arts in Public History from UALR. His museum/preservation experience includes serving as the Planning and Preservation Coordinator at the Capitol Zoning District Commission from 2019-2021 and the Public Programs Manager at Historic Cane Hill 2021-2023, where he developed and presented educational programming. His depth of experience will make him an asset to the museum. The April "Movies at MacArthur" film, *Model T's to War: Ambulances on the Western Front*, had attendance of 56 guests on April 15. Attendance at the monthly program for the first four months of 2025 has been 216. The film series is 68% ahead of last year's attendance and is on track to have another record-breaking year. The May "Movies at MacArthur" film, *War Letters*, is scheduled for May 20. The museum will offer two hours of PD credit to teachers who attend the movie and participate in a discussion forum with Museum Program Assistant David Collins.

The museum hosted the final meeting of the Aesthetic Club's 2024-2025 season on April 22. Approximately 85 members attended. The organization will take a summer hiatus before resuming its meetings in October. The women's club has held its meetings at the Arsenal Building since 1894 and makes an annual contribution to the museum.

The museum partnered with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month on April 9 with music from the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America. The Shades of Blue jazz ensemble played a free concert at the Clinton Library to over 325 people. The museum hosted the first meeting of Freedom Sings Arkansas on April 14. The non-profit's mission is to work with veterans and active-duty military to tell their stories through the process of songwriting. Local songwriters will meet with area veterans at the museum on the second Monday of each month. For more information on the organization, visit their website at:

<https://www.freedomsingsarkansas.org/> .

The museum hosted the Arkansas State Archives' Spring symposium, *Lost Utopias: The Search for Arkansas's Vanished Tourist Attractions*, on April 26. The event included presentations on Monte Ne, the history of Dogpatch USA, Hot Springs' forgotten attractions, and the history of Arkansas tourism to its natural springs. The event was free to the public. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the museum hosted Lieutenant Colonel Ret. Hugh Mills Jr. for a program on April 29. A native of Hot Springs, Mills is one of the most decorated helicopter pilots in the Vietnam War and is the author of *Low-Level Hell, A Scout Pilot in the Big Red One*, which recounts his experiences in Vietnam. He discussed his experiences in the Vietnam War as well as his twenty-six year-career in the United States Army.

Registration has opened for the 2025 MacArthur Park "History on the Run" 5k race on May 2. The race will begin and end in front of the museum and take runners and walkers through the MacArthur Park and Pettaway Park neighborhoods. Approximately 115 runners/walkers have already registered, including four corporate teams each from the UALR Bowen School of Law and L'Oreal.

The museum will be a participating site in the Quapaw Quarter Association's 60th Spring Tour of Homes on May 10-11. This year's tour will focus on the MacArthur Park Historic District. The museum will appear in all publicity and promotional material for the tour. The museum will also, partner with the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to open its America 250 celebrations on July 4, 2025, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration will include free admission at the presidential center all day followed by a Revolutionary battle reenactment on the east lawn. The event is presented in partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Early "Arkansaw" Reenactors Association, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, and Blue Bell Creameries. Blue Bell Creameries will provide ice cream for the event.

Special Tours at the Museum in April included: (1) senior group from Our Lady of Souls Church on April 10, (2) special needs elementary students from Stephens and Terry Elementary Schools on April 17, (3)

University of Central Arkansas's ROTC program on April 24, (4) two groups of 3rd grade students from Ridge Road Elementary in North Little Rock on April 25, and (5) students from Mountain Home Christian Academy on April 25.

Programs and Special Events Coming Up May – July:

May 2 – 16th Annual “History on the Run” 5K Race, 7 pm

May 10-11 – QQA Spring Tour of Historic Homes, including the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

May 20 – Movies at MacArthur, *War Letters*, 6:30 – 8 pm

June – Little Rock School District Summer Enrichment Program Off-site and Field Trips

June – July – Summer Playground Program Off-site and Field Trips

June 1 - Spring Music at the Arsenal, 2 pm

June 7 – Congressman French Hill’s “Send-Off for the Service Academy Cadets” Reception,

June 8 – Concert, “Stars and Stripes Celebration for Flag Day” with Little Rock Wind Symphony, 7 pm

June 16 – Reception for the Arkansas Council on Social Studies, 5:30 – 7 pm

June 17 – Movies at MacArthur, *The Strange History of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell*, 6:30 – 8 pm

June 25 – Korean War Remembrance Ceremony, 10:00 am (Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

July 15 – Movies at MacArthur, *Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1*, 6:30 – 8 pm

July 28 – Teacher Professional Development Workshop, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation was a part of the Mobile City Hall event. The Parks trailer, disc golf baskets and programming flyers were provided, and the Outdoor Recreation staff were on hand to interact with the public. Group road bike rides started on Monday, 4/14/25 and will continue through Oct. The rides start and end at Murray Park, at the big banana sculpture. 6pm-8pm. April ride attendance- 6 adults.

4/12/25-Disc Golf Pop-up at Conner Park. 10am-3pm. Free Program. 59 adults in attendance. 4/13/25-Orienteering clinic at Allsopp Park. 2pm-4pm, free program. 5 adults and 10 youth in attendance.

4/25/25-Fishing program for the Therapeutic Rec program at Boyle Park. 9am-12pm, 25 adults in attendance. 4/26/25-Outdoor Recreation was in attendance for the Impact the Rock event at Reservoir Park. Archery equipment has been ordered. Part of the order has arrived, and the remaining equipment should arrive within 2 weeks. Programming will begin by mid-May and take place at War Memorial Park and the Rebsamen Park archery range. This equipment will also be used for the Parks Summer Day Camp program. Outdoor Recreation has been brought on to help plan and oversee the Parks Summer Day Camp program (formerly called the Summer Playground Program). Support and guidance in programming and direct program facilitating will be provided by the Outdoor Recreation staff. Programs will include: archery, fishing, bike safety and camping 101 skills development. Seal Solar has agreed to be a sponsor of the Squatch Till You Drop trail running event. The event is scheduled for Nov 8th & 9th and will be held at Allsopp Park. This is the second year for this event and the first time Seal Solar will be a sponsor. An e-newsletter for Outdoor Recreation is in the works and will be published in early May. 5/3/25- I will be the bike marshal for MacArthur Park’s Run Through History 5k. To date, Outdoor Recreation has 74 events/programs on the 2025 calendar. The goal is to have at least 100 events offered in 2025. More to come!

