



## Parks Commission Recreation - Report 9/11/2024

### ALL Community Centers

Participated in the youth football and volleyball clinics that are held prior to season starting.

### Active & Aging

Hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Care Link Chair Volleyball Tournament at West Central Community Center. Celebrated monthly birthdays, health screenings and fellowshipping. Continues to compete in chair volleyball, and bean bag baseball with other centers in central Arkansas.

### Youth Athletics

Hosted a Youth Football Clinic and had past NFL player Jarius Wright to speak to the participants it was well attended.

### Stephens Community Center

Hosting a Fall Men 40 & Over Basketball League, it is fun filled with lots of competition and enjoyment.

### The Centre at University Park

The Little Rock Board of Directors is now holding their meeting in the newly renovated board room at City Hall. The Centre is still hosting various meeting for other departments within the city.

### All Community Center Locations

Youth is in their fall programming with the Star Student Afterschool Program, football, volleyball, and cheerleading.

### First - Tee

First Tee hosted US Kids Tournament was held Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. This tournament had over 75 kids ages 5 to 18 from around the state, and a few from surrounding state came out to play.

### Tennis

30+ teams continue to use Rebsamen as home courts for the mixed doubles and tri-level seasons this summer, season ending soon. High school tennis has begun, using the courts 5 days a week after school. Rebsamen specific leagues still plays Monday and Thursday nights (over 30 players in Monday league).

### Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics

Assistant Pool Manager passed his Aquatic Facility Operator Certification Course. We were closed for the UAPB/U of A football game.



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### Stephens Community Center

#### Star Student Program:

The Star Student Afterschool Program is coming along just fine. We have 38 participants registered (76%).

#### Youth Sports Program

Programs for the Fall are Flag Football which is coming to an end. We have four teams. Cheerleading with a total of 21 participants. Volleyball working on 2 teams.

#### Adult Activities:

The Men's 40 & Over League has begun We have 8 teams with about 100 participants.

#### Facility Vacancies:

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

#### Maintenance:

We are in the process of having renovations done in the building. Outside painting is being done. Ceiling in the Gym is completed. Contractors are working on what the next step will be. The Air Conditioner to the gym has been vandalized. We are Very Happy for what is on the way at Stephens CC.

### Dunbar Community Center

#### After School Programs

The after-school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program, flag football, cheerleading and volleyball. 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 have youth grades K-8<sup>th</sup> and an enrollment of 60 and counting for the first semester.

#### Youth Sports Programs

This month we continued registration with our cheerleading and volleyball programs. The cheer program serves youth ages 5-10. The volleyball program features girls and boys, grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Volleyball starts in September. Flag football has been going well, some games were postponed due to heat index, but we should be finishing the season next month. Three-day volleyball clinic was held at Dunbar for participants who are registered to play for LRPR. The clinic was at no additional cost to participants.

#### Youth Volleyball Clinic

Dunbar's annual volleyball clinic is a weeklong clinic for middle and high school girls. They go through a series of drills for every position and scrimmage each other. This allows youth to enhance their skills or learn skills to help them play the game of volleyball.

### West Central Community Center

#### Youth Sports Program:

West Central had 30 participants in flag football this season. Ten participants in Cheer. We are ordering cheerleading uniforms for the team. We have started the flag football season and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. We are recruiting and registering for Volleyball season.

**Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 25 participants. Both are growing every month. Dance finished their season and had their award ceremony. They will resume September 3rd

#### West Central CC:

Every Thursday night is ladies' night, women are able to come in and have open run basketball games. We hosted Baptist Health back to school immunization clinic; parents were able to come get their children caught up on their school immunizations. We are hosting a Zumba class to bring in more adult participants.

**Rentals:**

The center had a total of three rentals and hosted LRPD Police Training and six neighborhood association meetings. Parkview Boys Basketball team has been practicing in the afternoon due to their gym being occupied. We have rented the gym for a pilot Zumba workout program.

**Maintenance:**

We had a light pole to fall at the baseball fields 8/28/24. Our internet line was cut outside near the main road. IT and support team came out and rewired everything it is up and running 8/29/24.

**Employment:**

We have hired for our Recreation Programmer position, and she will start September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Southwest Community Center**

**Youth Programs:** Summer Swimming lessons went well ending August 27, 2024, with approximately 25-30 youth aging 0-16 passing the courses. The afterschool Star Student Program continue to struggle with youth participation but look forward to numbers growing once the afterschool transportation Pilot program has been approved. The Jr. Botanist program has 4 youth registered and they are gearing up to participate in the first annual Oaktober education program collaboration with Dee Brown library.

**Youth Athletics:** We have 4 Flag football teams beginning at 6u-10u. Teams did participant in a two-week fundamental training which included the educating on safety. The Southwest Panthers cheerleading team has participated at every game and are gearing up for a cheer competition to held at the end of the year.

Registration for volleyball is open and practice started last week 08/20/2024. We have 4 co-ed teams that seem to be excited about learning the game and playing other teams. The afterschool Star Student Program continue to struggle with youth participation but look forward to numbers growing once the afterschool transportation Pilot program has been approved.

**Adult Athletics:** 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+. Morning and evening aerobics have ended, as well as early bird lap swim.

**Special Events:** The first Annual Greek Nik went well we had several sororities and fraternities participate providing school supplies, haircuts and Greek performances. Baptist health provided vaccine shots free of charge during the month to any families in need. attendance over 50 students each class. Donations from the school district and several other local businesses were given to help feed all participants. 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. We met this week and came to the agreement that we will be offering the ACT prep classes beginning in October another collaboration with Pulaski County Youth Services.

**ELR Community Center**

Renovations steps has started and will continue until the projects are done. Helped with Youth Volleyball Clinic. Met with staff of CALS and they will schedule a date for packing and pick up within the next week. CHI ST. Vincents held their annual back to school event and utilized the gymnasium and Room 49 as overflow areas. Maintenance continues to mow, weed eat, and pick up around the entire grounds. Horticulture maintained the hedges and flower island. Continuing to assist in absence of supervisor and attend various meetings as scheduled, also will help with Aging & Active program as needed. Little Rock Police Department continue to use the back area/field for their dog training, as needed. AAU football practices on the multi-purpose field Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday weekly. The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 4 to 5 days per week, with about 8 - 10 participants. There is still some 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**

West Central Seniors hosted the Sixth Annual Chair Volleyball Tournament with 8 teams from around the region participating. West Central Seniors are the “Champions”. Held August birthday Celebrations, as well as other activities. East Little Roc participates in Care Link Workshops weekly. They continue to have visits from Baptist and Sage Health and Oak Street Clinic. They do crafts, such as bottle flowers, jewelry, decorating caps/hats, puzzles, and coloring. West Central continues to compete in chair volleyball and bean bag baseball leagues against other sites within the state and won another championship!

**Dunbar Seniors:** Bingo, Senior Circle, Walking, 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:** 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:** 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:** 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**

On Friday, August 23rd the Branch Out program had an Art Show at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History from 6-8pm. We had 47 in attendance. The TR staff is working in partnership with Camp Aldersgate for the annual Adult Overnight Camping event to be held at Camp Aldersgate in October. This event is scheduled for October 16-18. Registration is now open for Logan's Run. The TR Division has announced a new event for Fall of 2024, Logan's Run 2K Event! Logan's Run is a non-competitive event that offers children ages 5-25 with intellectual, developmental, and/or physical disabilities the opportunity to enhance their physical activity while focusing on reaching a goal. This event will include the 2K race as well as Scout's Fun Zone! The Fun Zone will feature various games and activities for families to enjoy. Registered participants will receive a medal and t-shirt on race day! Registration is now open. Logan's Run is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Logan Bussard. Logan joined the Little Rock Parks and Recreation team as the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in 2023. Sadly, Logan passed on May 31, 2024. This event will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Murray Park. This event was created in partnership with the Little Rock Marathon team. Branch Out activities over the next few weeks include Murry's Dinner Playhouse, Two Rivers Park, Memphis Zoo and fitness classes at the Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center. If the heat lets up, we hope to be back volunteering at the Little Rock Zoo in September. The TR Division has hired a new TR Programmer, Jansen Goodwin. His start date is September 9, 2024. Jansen has an extensive background in special education and is also a special needs parent. We are excited to add him to the team.

### **Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics**

With the UAPB/UofA football game at the stadium, we were closed for that event. We had two sessions of swimming lessons with over 100 participants and our daily swim had 75+ people each day. (We also had heat advisory days). We continue to have boot camp style fitness. The public is still being informed through Facebook about various classes and events. Evening activities are still going well. Yoga nights are a success and will be continuing these types of activities. Baptist Health still comes to JDFAC monthly and conduct blood pressure checks for our participants.

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

The City Board moved this month back to City Hall for their board meetings. Maintenance continues to work on the outside to keep it beautified and well maintained. Our facility is still a booking space for City Of Little Rock related meetings. We continue to accommodate other city departments and as well in terms of office space, access, and availability. The Centre held 11 Internal CLR meetings, no cancellations for the month of August and the meeting attendance was 450.

## **Youth Athletics**

Youth Flag Football clinics was held, and Former NFL player Jarius Wright came and gave an encouraging talk with all that were there. The Flag football season id underway. Youth Volleyball also held the preseason clinic at Dunbar Community center. Volleyball season will begin next month. Registration is going on for cheer, and volleyball and will begin for basketball soon. Kudos to all the staff at all centers for continuing to ensure everything is running smoothly.

## **Adult Athletics**

### **Interstate Park Program**

Field Rental reservations have begun to be made for the youth football leagues around the city.

### **Adult Softball Program**

Interstate Park will start fall ball the second week of September which registration is open for women and our coed league. For ages 18 and up.

### **Summer Playground Program**

I have begun planning for the summer of 2025. I have completed my inventory and has started to meet with other vendors for additional activities for 2025.

## **First Tee Golf**

August has been very exciting here at First Tee. To start the month, we did our second Aerification process of the year on August 12 and 13th. Being able to do two Aerifications every year is beneficial to the health of the putting surface.

We continue to see a rise in attendance and green fees here at First Tee compared to last year. Currently, we are sitting at \$225,237.52 in gross revenue which is an increase of 12.75% from last year. We have done a total of 15,321 transactions with an average net sale of \$14.58. As we continue this trend, we are projected to make over \$300,000 in revenue for the year which would be the highest recorded revenue year for First Tee since the city took over Operations.

On Saturday, August 24, we had the fall US kids tournament. This brought over 75 young adults from around the state and surrounding states to our golf course and our city. The weather was beautiful that day.

Complements continued days after about the quality of the golf course and playing conditions. All in all, it was a huge success and a great revenue day for us..

Golf cart rentals remain the number one selling item. We have done a total of \$82,026.01 in golf cart rentals this year so far. With golf cart rentals being our number one selling item, this means that they get used very frequently. Not having cart paths on the golf course is still a concern to not only the golf course conditions but also the wear and tear of the golf carts themselves.

Unfortunately, we have had a strain of burglaries here at night with individuals either stealing or attempting to steal our golf carts. We are in the process of installing a new camera system and I am working together with Little Rock Police Department detectives to figure out ways to resolve this issue.

But let's bring it back to some good news. As we start to prep for the fall and winter months, we focus our attention on our budget and needs until the end of the year.

If you have not been to First Tee or played the golf course, we welcome you to come out and check out our facility. As facility supervisor here at First Tee, it is my goal to make sure you have an enjoyable experience when you come out to play golf.

## **Rebsamen Golf**

Wednesday Ladies Day had 60+ ladies for the month. Revenue is up 10% over 2023. Mulligans Grill rolled out their new menu for fall. The greens were Verti-Cut for the summertime play.

**UPCOMING EVENT:** Little Rock City Championship Open Stroke Play Tournament will be held on September 14 & 15, 2024. Limited to the first 80 entries received. There will be 3 divisions: Open, Seniors

(50+), and Super Senior (60+). 36-hole format individual Men stroke play, tee times on Saturday and Sunday beginning @8:30am. Registration Deadline September 10.

### **Rebsamen Tennis**

New lights are getting great reviews! Best outdoor lights in the area (and probably the state) for tennis. Over 30 teams using Rebsamen as their home courts for USTA mixed and tri-level season, the most we've ever had. Over 25 teams using Rebsamen as their home courts for USTA combo season for the fall.

Rebsamen Monday league has over 30 players currently. Razorback Jr Classic junior tournament hosted 130 players – August 9-11. Helped host the ATA State Mixed Doubles Championships – August 23-24. High school tennis in full swing from now to the end of September. New assistant manager hired (Andrew Fox), started August 12. Junior Academy's back to school with classes now back to after school.

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

1. Museum attendance for August (through 8/26) was 1,750. This total includes: (1) on-site visitation, (2) special events, (3) virtual programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, and (4) off-site programming. On-site visitation included 589 walk-in guests and 327 visitors to special events, tours, etc. During the summer season (June – August) out-of-state visitors to the museum came from 40 states as well as Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea, Uruguay and New Zealand. Total attendance for the first eight months of 2024 is 28,596 which represents a 10.6% increase over last year.
2. The museum's virtual documentaries/interviews received 424 new views during August for a total of 3,919 views for 2024. Off-site programming reached 407 youth and adults in August for a total of 6,235 for 2024.
3. The museum received \$925 in outside donations in August, bringing the total amount raised in 2024 to \$19,860. The museum is on schedule to meet its fundraising goal to raise \$30,000 in grants, sponsorships and donations each year. Total gift shop sales for August were \$706 for a total of \$7,851 for 2024.
4. The Mac Park Group worked with the Bowen Law School on August 17 for a park clean-up using approximately 140 first year law students. The MacArthur Park Group continues to promote the design competition for a new shade structure for the MacArthur Unleashed dog park (see flyer). An article about the competition was in Sean Clancy's "Paper Trails" column in the Sunday, August 25 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. See the link below.

<https://ao.pressreader.com/article/290593202356000>

5. Attendance for the August 20 "Movies at MacArthur" film *The Waler: Australia's Great War Horse* was 65. Publicity for the movie included Eric Harrison's "Entertainment" section of the August 18 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Attendance for the film program this year is 432 and it is on track to have its second record-breaking year in a row. The next movie, *My Lai* is scheduled for September 17. Special thanks to our 2024 corporate sponsor – the law firm of Wright, Lindsey, & Jennings – as well as our beverage sponsors – Stone's Throw Brewing and Marty and Tim Heiple. The remaining movies for this year are *Command and Control* on October 15 and *Elvis and the USS Arizona* on November 19. Staff is working to finalize the 2025 schedule of movies.
6. The museum's "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour to Civil War sites associated with the Battle of Helena and the Little Rock Campaign is scheduled for Saturday, September 14. The tour will include stops at Freedom Park, New Fort Curtis, the Moore-Hornor Home, Maple Hill Cemetery, Battery C, and the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, as well as stops at Reed's Bridge Battlefield and Fourche Bayou.
7. The museum received delivery of *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon* from Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City, MO. The traveling exhibit examines the atomic age and Cold War through two photographic essays that look at the offensive and defensive implications of nuclear war. It includes 40 photographic images and will open on September 13 and remain through January 5, 2025.
8. The museum hosted the Aesthetic Club's "Summer Concert" at the museum on August 4. Approximately 50 members attended the event. The Arsenal Building has hosted the organization's twice monthly meetings (October – April) as well as other special events since 1894.
9. Museum staff presented off-site programming to approximately 245 adults at the Museum of Discovery's "Science After Dark" program on August 22.

10. The museum hosted approximately 43 persons for the Therapeutic Recreation Division's "aRT Gallery" on August 23 featuring original artwork developed by the program's participants.
11. The museum presented special tours for the following groups in August:  
Members of the National Church Conference of the Blind on August 6. The organization was holding its 2024 conference in Little Rock and was touring local museums and historic sites.  
Members of the 913<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group of the Little Rock Air Force Base on August 7.  
Visitors from the Korean Christian Cultural Unity Institute on August 23.
12. Upcoming events in September include:  
September 13 – Exhibit opening, *Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon* (flyer attached)  
September 14 – "On the Road with Mark Christ – Helena" bus tour (flyer attached)  
September 14 – Off-site programming at "Tinkerfest" at the Museum of Discovery  
September 17 – "Movies at MacArthur" film *My Lai* (flyer attached)  
September 21 – MacArthur Park Group park clean up

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Coordinated with Major Lot and Lt. Snook of the LRPD to arrange for officers to us the old War Memorial golf course maintenance shop as a cooling station for the Razorback football game. Working on registration, developing event rules and regulations and event sponsors for the 11/16/24 "Squatch Till You Drop" trail run event at Allsopp Park. Held a Boyle Park Mt bike ride. I spoke with a member of the senior program at West Central (Geoffery) about doing bike programs for their senior population once the weather cools down. We have a fellow up meeting tentatively set to look at the bikes West Central has in storage. Talked with members of the UALR track and Field team who were using the park for practice. I contacted the head coach (JP Behnke) and talked about way Outdoor Recreation could possibly support the UALR cross country/track program. Coach Behnke appreciated the call but said UALR cross country or track & field no longer hosts home events. Coordinated with Matthew DeSalvo, (Chief Homeless Officer) to connect several displace individuals who had been staying in War Memorial Park with aid. Prep work for the public comments meeting at Rebsamen Archery Range for the project grant application. This included creating and distributing a flyer for the event on social media and in several local businesses, organizing an archery class for after the meeting and coordinating with Parks grant s department and Brittany Nichols. Coordinated logistic details LRPD and Parks Operations for the 8/29/24 use of War Memorial office and parking for the Razorback football game.

### **Upcoming Events/Activities:**

Will be assisting with several of the future training rides as a group leader. Enduro Mountain Bike race at River Mountain on 10/26 &27/24. On-line registration is open and final details are being worked out with the race promoters (Arkansas Enduro Series & The Ozark Foundation). "Squatch till you drop" trail running event at Allsopp South is continuing to be developed, scheduled for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am-2pm. Registration opened on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Set the goal for providing 100+ programs/activities for 2024. As of 8/25/24 OR has provided 52 programs/activities and has 62 set for the remainder of the year. More will be added.