



Parks & Recreation

500 W Markham - Room 108
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 501.371.4770

City In A Park Newsletter

September 2012

www.lrpr.org

Message From The Director



As the summer of 2012 comes to a close and we are moving to the final quarter of the year, I am very excited about our future. I am also proud of a number of accomplishments from this past summer.

Truman Tolefree –
 Director of Little Rock
 Parks & Recreation

On August 20, the ground was broken for Little Rock’s newest facility, the Centre At University Park. Formerly known as the Adult Leisure Center, the *Centre at University Park* will be a modern and useful replacement for the building that burned in 2009.

On August 25, the Ottenheimer Community Center was dedicated. The home of the City of Little Rock’s Therapeutic Recreation Division, the Ottenheimer Community Center was destroyed by fire in 2008, but is now open and operational.

The renovated War Memorial Park Natural Play Area and Pavilion was dedicated on May 23. The play area features a splash pad, swing set and an open lawn designed to accommodate individual and family passive recreational activities.

These projects and many more have allowed us to provide the citizens with a first-class parks and recreation system in Central Arkansas, with more to come.

I am very proud of our staff and what has been accomplished and look forward to what the future holds for Little Rock Parks & Recreation.



The new War Memorial Park Natural Play Area and Pavilion



(Left) The Ground-breaking ceremony for the new “Centre at University Park”

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Park Operations.....	371-6851
Little Rock Marathon	918-5321
Therapeutic Recreation	371-5359
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Senior Programs.....	371-6854
Summer Playground Program.....	371-6858
Dunbar Community Center.....	376-1084
Stephens Community Center	603-9974
Southwest Community Center.....	918-3975
Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center.....	664-6976
MacArthur Museum	376-4602
Hindman Golf Course	565-6450
War Memorial Golf Course.....	663-0854
Rebsamen Golf Course.....	666-7965
Rebsamen Tennis Center.....	664-0736
Pavilion Reservations	371-4770
Ballpark Reservations	372-3285

For other information, please visit www.lrpr.org

“The Centre At University Park”

A new future and a new name was unveiled August 20, 2012, as the ground was broken for Little Rock’s new Community Center in the University Park neighborhood. Formerly known as the Adult Leisure Center, the *Centre at University Park* will be a modern and useful replacement for the building that burned down in 2009.



City Manager Bruce Moore speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new “Centre at University Park”

“Of course we are forever grateful that no one was hurt in the fire,” said Parks and Recreation Director Truman Tolefree. “However, it was quite a tragedy for this neighborhood and all the residents of Little Rock to lose that Community Resource. It was the location for so many activities. This new facility is sure to be just as popular and will be available for groups to meet, families to celebrate special occasions and many, many other events.”

The original center was built in 1991. Fire swept through the building in October of 2009. The new centre will be approximately 15,000 square feet, with a larger ball room, meeting rooms, webinar room, pottery and crafts room. The centre will cost approximately \$3,000,000 and will be funded by insurance proceeds and recently passed tax measure. The construction time is expected to be eight months.



Ottenheimer Community Center Is The New Home For Therapeutic Recreation

A place for recreation. A place for therapy for some of Little Rock’s most vulnerable residents. A place for all residents to gather and enjoy their community. This place is the new Ottenheimer Community Center. A dedication and day long celebration for the center was held on Saturday, August 25, 2012.



Mayor Mark Stodola and City Manager Bruce Moore are joined by Directors Gene Fortson and Joan Adcock, Cloverdale Neighborhood Association President Pam Adcock, members of the Therapeutic Recreation program, community residents and guests in the ribbon cutting

Cline Construction Group was selected in late 2010 to rebuild the Ottenheimer Community Center. The new building, contracted by Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department and designed by Heiple+Wiedower Architects, replaces the original Ottenheimer Community Center destroyed by fire in August of 2008.

This 3,500 square foot building includes spaces for recreational, therapeutic, computer and cooking use by the community. Exposed heavy timber construction and a unique roof profile make this building a showcase property of the City. This \$600,000 structure was designed with sustainable building principles in mind such as the use of regional materials and energy saving construction applications and technology.

The Ottenheimer Community Center will be the home of the City of Little Rock’s Therapeutic Recreation Division. Therapeutic Recreation is a purposeful intervention designed to bring about positive emotional, social, physical or cognitive changes in individuals with disabilities. This amazing program utilizes trained staff, adapted equipment and community based activities to provide activities that enhance a participant’s ability to enjoy recreation and promote healthy, independent lifestyles.

The Mud Run – Little Rock’s Dirtiest 5k

The 10th Annual Mud Run, presented by the Hatcher Agency is slated for Saturday, October 27, at 9 am in Two Rivers Park in West Little Rock and is a project of Little Rock Parks & Recreation.



“We started the Mud Run to introduce the sport of running to people who would have never considered it before,” said Geneva Hampton, the race CIC (that’s “mud-ese” for Chick in Charge aka race organizer). “It is the funniest race I have ever seen and it’s a great change of pace from the typical road race.”

The Mud Run is a “combination of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Razorback Football Game and the Olympics with a little running thrown in” according to Hampton.

“The only thing we take serious is the mud,” she said. “The point is not to finish fast, but finish with style.”

According to Hampton, the biggest competition on race day is not winning the race, but for the “other” awards handed out. Competition categories in addition to the top three overall winners are: cleanest, dirtiest, best costume, best performance in the mud put – to mention just a few.

The registration fee is \$25 before race day, \$35 on race day and is available online until October 19. Participants can also register in person from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, October 26th at Gary Smith’s Easy Runner, 11525 Cantrell Rd, Suite 102 (Pleasant Ridge Shopping Center) or on race day at Two Rivers Park from 7:28 am to 8:47 am.

The Mud Run is sponsored KSSN 96FM, the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Gary Smith’s Easy Runner, and the Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau.

For more information visit www.mudrun.org or call 371-4639.



Registration is now underway for the 11th annual Little Rock Marathon, presented by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The race is set to be held March 2 – 3, 2013 and benefits Little Rock Parks & Recreation.

Weekend events include the Little Rock Marathon, the Little Rock Half Marathon (*presented by Baptist Health*), the Little Rock 5K Fun Run/Walk, Little Rockers Kids Marathon (*presented by Arkansas Children’s Hospital*) and the Little Rock Health & Fitness Expo.

Registration for the Little Rockers Kids Marathon will open September 1, 2012.



The Little Rock Marathon offers a free training

program to individuals participating in the 2013 race.

The Little Rock Marathon Training Program, presented by KARK Channel 4, is free of charge, but registration is required.

Register online at www.littlerockmarathon.com



In the past, all races have sold out, due in part to large finisher’s medals and fun race themes.

The 2013 theme is “Lucky” and race officials anticipate the race will sell out before the end of the year.

For more information about deadline, details and the race, visit the website or contact the Little Rock Marathon office at 501-371-4639.

THE COLOR RUN™

The Color Run™ is going down in Little Rock on Saturday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m. The only question is “Are you ready for the craziest, colorful, 5k of your life?” You bet you are. Race it solo or form a “color team” of 4+ members. Sign up for updates to make sure you get your spot in the race!



The Color Run™ is a one of a kind experience that is less about speed and more about enjoying a color crazy day with your friends and family. For our events, it is about participants of all different speeds, ages, shapes, and sizes toeing the start line. Whether you are a casual morning mall walker or an Olympic athlete, the 3 miles of The Color Run™ course will be the most enjoyable real estate you’ve traveled in a VERY long time. For more information visit www.thecolorrun.com/little-rock.

Baker To Play In USGA Senior Amateur

Bobby Baker, facility supervisor of the War Memorial Golf Course, has qualified to compete in the 58th USGA Senior Amateur Golf Championship at the Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell, NJ.



Baker won the sectional qualifier that was played at the Arlington Course of the Hot Springs Country Club. His 2-under par score in the 18-hole contest earned the lone qualifying spot. He is one of just two players from the state of Arkansas to be represented in the tournament. The other is Louis Lee, who is the defending champion.

The 156-player championship will take place Sept. 29-Oct. 4. After 36 holes of stroke play the top 64 players will advance to match play.

This is the ninth USGA event for Baker, but his first senior national championship.

Park & Facility Of The Month

Each month, Little Rock Parks & Recreation selects a “Park of the Month” and a “Facility of the Month”. These selections are based on a set of criteria established by the administration and scores achieved based on this criteria.



Facility of the Month for August is Rebsamen Golf Course Pictured above are Rick Warfield (Left), Parks Enterprise and Golf Manager with Truman Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation



Park of the Month for August is Butler Park Pictured above are Jim Sick (Left), Parks Maintenance Manager, Kevin Page (Center), Maintenance North Foreman with Truman Tolefree, Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation

Did You Know? There are 73.85 miles of trails in your Little Rock parks. Included in this number are six miles of equestrian-permitted trails. So, go for a walk on a trail and take a friend, or a dog, or a horse.

Summer Playground Program & Museum of Discovery Receive \$10,000 Grant From Bank of America

The Summer Playground Program, entering its 93rd year of existence, has formed a partnership with the Museum of Discovery to allow the nearly 1,000 participants in the program to visit the museum during the summer of 2013.



Through a generous grant of \$10,000 from Bank of America, the participants in the Summer Playground Program will visit the Museum of Discovery in July and receive special programming and a fun, educational experience that would not be possible without the support of Bank of America



Mount St. Mary's Sophomores Clean Up At Allsopp Park As Part of "Mercy Day"



Sophomores from Mount St. Mary's Academy worked to clean up Allsopp Park as a part of their annual "Mercy Day" on Sept. 21. Above, a group of eight students move a fallen tree. Below, the entire group of more than 150 gather for a group photo.



LRPR "Parklets"

◆ *Volunteer Park Rangers To Be In 10 Parks:*

The Volunteer Park Rangers program has been established in 10 of Little Rock's parks after the first class of volunteer rangers went through the first class of training. A second class is about to begin, as the program continues to grow.

◆ *Luncheon Honors Hundreds Of Volunteers:*

The annual recognition luncheon for the hundreds of volunteers who work with Little Rock Parks and Recreation was held in early September at the Southwest Community Center. Lunch was served to the volunteers by Little Rock Parks and Recreation staff and many of the outstanding volunteers were recognized for their service.

◆ *LRPR Staff Sets Example For "Fit For Life":*

The staff of Little Rock Parks and Recreation is working to set the example for the rest of the City of Little Rock staff in the "Fit For Life" program, which is managed by the city's Office of Human Resources. Each staff member is asked to exercise at least 30 minutes per day and record their activities. Participants are rewarded each quarter for the number of hours they have logged.

Help Us Tell Our Story

Little Rock Parks & Recreation is working to improve its communication with the citizens of Little Rock. We need your assistance with feedback on how we are doing. Please go to our website and look for us on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. We need to hear from you.



L I T T L E R O C K



Parks & Recreation

WWW.LRPR.ORG / 501.371.4178

"A City In A Park"