

A CITY in A PARK



Little Rock Parks & Recreation Newsletter

April 2016

Director's Message

Baseball diamonds are painted. Pastel petals pop out from flower beds...Spring is in the air...along with the pollen!

What a great time of year to get out and play (we here at Little Rock Parks and Recreation may be a wee bit biased)

With the Little Rock Marathon, Spring Break and Easter behind us, Spring is in full swing and we still have a lot happening in the department!

Our recreation centers bustle with children and parents registering for softball, soccer and track. We also want you to get ready for the pool with swim lessons at Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center or Southwest Community Center.

I want to take this opportunity to personally invite you to a special event we are very excited to be a part of. This year we have the good fortune of partnering with Baptist Health as they host their annual Bolo Bash Tennis Tournament. This April 8-17 hundreds of visitors from around the world will come to our Rebsamen Tennis Center to see some upcoming and returning champions. This USTA sanctioned event is always a crowd pleaser with various special events scheduled throughout the week...including a clinic and reception with the Olympic Gold Medalist Lindsay Davenport! I hope you'll take time to come out during the week to see a match or two, grab a bite to eat and enjoy watching some of the best tennis in the region. Our staff at Rebsamen Tennis Center is rolling out the red carpet for everyone. Come join us!

As always, we love to hear from our friends and visitors who take it outside and enjoy our parks. Keep sharing your pictures and stories via social media! And remember, life is meant to be *lived*...not tolerated!

See you at the park,

Truman Tolefree



We welcomed 70+ youth to MacArthur Park to help us clean the playground March 16th. Thank you kids!



In This Issue

- Park Cleanups
- Bolo Bash
- Clothesline Project
- Kites for Sale



Join us with Bobby's Bike Hike for the Bike to Nature Ride Sunday, April 17 5:30 pm and learn about some native plants and critters!



Citywide Cleanup...Thank You Volunteers!

March 12 was not an average Saturday. Thanks to hundreds of volunteers from the community, several neighborhoods and parks were made better and cleaner through their hard work. Less than perfect weather caused some groups to reschedule their organized clean-up projects but for the ones who came out—thank you again! These pictures were taken at Interstate Park where the group officially kicked off their event. After the cleanup volunteers were treated to a delicious lunch at the State Fairgrounds provided by Little Rock Parks & Recreation.



**Witness the
“Clothesline Project”
April 11 – May 7**

A powerful display of veteran-designed T-shirts expressing deeply personal journeys of sexual assault/trauma and recovery, will be displayed at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

MACARTHUR MUSEUM of ARKANSAS MILITARY HISTORY

503 E. Ninth St., Little Rock
501-376-4602
arkmilitaryheritage.com

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History will open a temporary exhibit to raise awareness of sexual trauma in the military.

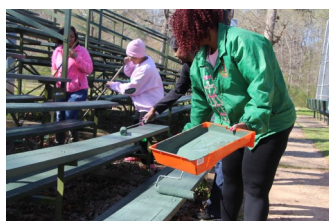
The museum is partnering with the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System to host a display of t-shirts from the “Clothesline Project,” a program that allows survivors to tell their stories, break the silence, and bring public awareness to the issue. T-shirts used in the exhibit were designed by both male and female survivors of military sexual trauma and represent their recovery journeys.

Monday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. Kiah McGraw, State Advocate Coordination for the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault, will present a brief program. The free exhibit is open to the public from April 11 through May 7.



March 19 Cleanups

Volunteers gathered at Kanis Park and MacArthur Park to perform park cleanups on Saturday, March 19.



It was a chilly but very productive morning of painting and planting!





LRPR Night at the UALR Trojans game! March

Our youth cheerleaders performed for the crowd then enjoyed watching two very exciting (and sold-out) games!



Come Fly With Me

Celebrate National Kite Month with us! During the month of April, you can buy a kite to support our Volunteer Park Rangers and Junior Rangers programs! There is a large variety of designs and prices start at just \$5.00 Purchase a ladybug, puppy dog, airplane, pirate ship...even a Millennium Falcon and help our Rangers at the same time!

For more information contact Karen at 501-442-7320 or ksykes@littlerock.org

April is National Kite Month

Let's go fly a kite!



For more info:
Contact Karen
(501) 442-7320
ksykes@littlerock.org

Support our Volunteer Park Rangers & Junior Rangers



Celebrate our parks!
We have a variety of kites available, starting at \$5.



Beginning April 15, buy a kite from one of these City locations:

- Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center
- Dunbar Community Center
- Stephens Community Center
- Southwest Community Center
- Rebsamen Golf Course (Club House)
- Hindman Golf Course (Club House)



The Winner of our 2016 Little Rock Marathon Bryan Morseman crosses the finish line at a time of 2:27! See ALL the photos from the fun filled weekend of events at www.littlerockmarathon.com

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesdays in April join us for Jazz in the Park!

Free for all ages!
History Pavilion in Riverfront Park
6:00-8:00 pm each Wednesday in April
Concessions available for purchase and benefit Art Porter Music Education.



April 8-17 Baptist Health Bolo at Rebsamen Tennis Center.
TUESDAY 12 is CITY OF LITTLE ROCK DAY! Come enjoy a free lunch and celebrity sets between the scheduled matches!
Free to watch and fun for all ages!

April 22-24 Sculpture at the River Market
www.sculptureattherivermarket.com



Happy April Birthday to these Little Rock Parks and Recreation Employees

Mark Webre

Carol Bealer

Lance Zeno

Ramona Smith

Jerry Brown

Charles Spencer

Jay Carnes

Drew Boyles



Spring Sports are here!

Catch a soccer match at Southwest Community Center or a softball game at Interstate or Reservoir Park. Want more info? Visit us online at www.lrpr.org or find us on facebook!



www.lrpr.org

Contact Us

Give us a call, send an email or visit our offices at City Hall. We welcome your comments!

Little Rock Parks & Recreation

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Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 371-4770

Visit us on the web www.lrpr.org

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Be our friend!

Instagram: [LittleRockParksAndRec](https://www.instagram.com/LittleRockParksAndRec)

Be on the lookout for Drain Smart 2016 to come to a storm drain near you! The artists have been chosen! This year's drains are on South Main Street, Center Street and at the Promenade at Chenal!

Little Rock Parks & Recreation

500 West Markham
Little Rock, AR 72201

PLACE
STAMP
HERE