

# A CITY In A PARK



Little Rock Parks & Recreation

March 2015

## Director's Message

What an exciting start to a new month...another successful Little Rock Marathon is in the books. This year's event faced challenges (including less-than-favorable wintery weather!) but we crossed the finish line a winner. As I looked out over the thousands of runners early Sunday morning at the starting line, I could feel their energy and commitment. And I noticed a similarity to another group of people involved: the organizers and crew. Thank you to Mayor Mark Stodola and the City of Little Rock Board of Directors, City Manager Bruce Moore, Assistant City Manager James Jones, various City department heads and staff for all your support. Bravo to Gina and Geneva, race organizers and coordinators, for your tenacity and commitment. Kudos to all of the Little Rock Parks and Recreation staff and crew for working throughout the year and then full force during the marathon weekend setting up and breaking down the event. And thank you, to ALL of the many volunteers, sponsors and supporters who gave their time and energy to make sure our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Little Rock Marathon was one to remember and celebrate.

As we enter into the spring season, our golf courses will be bustling and the tennis courts are ready for play. Youth baseball and soccer registration are open. If swimming lessons or fitness is on your list this year, come check out what we have to offer at the Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatics Center!

An important part of our mission in Little Rock Parks and Recreation is to promote the natural environment. I am eager to see all the beautiful flowers and gardens in the parks come to life with color. The winter work in our greenhouse will soon be in full bloom! Trails wind through our beautiful city; I encourage you to venture out and explore the area surrounding you. With warmer temperatures and sunshine on the way, I can't think of a better way to spend a day in Little Rock!

*Truman Tolefree*

### Consider this:

“Winter is on my head but eternal spring is in my heart.”

-Victor Hugo



A snow-covered Birchwood Park, February 2015

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## Very Important Players!

The 2014-15 youth basketball season is just days away from wrapping up! Since December, 315 players ages 3-11 took their skills to courts, playing two games a week! February 19th our players were invited to join in the exciting night at Jack Stephens Center when the UALR Trojans took on the ASU Red Wolves.



February 28th was our Super Saturday. All the kids really showed out on the court this year! We applaud their energy and sportsmanship and hope to see them join us again next season!



Chocolates and flowers are old-fashioned. This Valentine's Day close to 100 volunteers showed up at Western Hills for ONIONS! Well, to help plant them anyway. The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Gleaning Project partnered with area neighborhood associations and Little Rock Parks and Recreation to plant 25,000 onion bulbs! These and other vegetables planted this year will be given to our hungry Arkansans. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to start your Valentine's Day with us!



## Busy Time in our Greenhouses!

A little snow and freezing temps may cause some work to slow, but not the hustle inside our warm nursery! It has been a busy time at the City Greenhouses this winter.



We planted 54 hanging baskets, containing 6,000 plugs, for Downtown Partnership. Thanks for the Master Gardeners' help with this!

The Little Rock Garden Club helped with the planting of 14,000 plugs for our Adopt-A-Park program. 250 tree seedlings were planted in recycled milk jugs for the upcoming Sustainability Conference in April.



## Drain Smart Program...Get Ready.

Soon you'll see bright colors and artistic designs covering certain storm drain covers around the city. We are excited to launch a new project in Little Rock this spring! "Drain Smart" is an effort to bring awareness to and education about our local waterways. Keep an eye out for more info soon and how you can get involved!



Want to see more pics?

Visit our Flickr page and like us on Facebook!

We have MANY more for you to enjoy!



Spring begins  
March 20!!

## Another Marathon...CHECK!

The 13th annual Little Rock Marathon weekend was another exciting success! Congratulations to all of the participants and the winners. Friday and Saturday participants enjoyed the expo as they gathered their race packets and souvenirs. Saturday morning hundreds of runners braved the cold to run the 5k and kiddos took the course for the Little Rockers Kids Marathon. Sunday's marathon, half marathon and 10k were as exciting as ever, with all runners taking a new race course this year and crossing the finish line with a big Pirate Ship awaiting their arrival. Congratulations to all the finishers and cheers to all the supporters along the miles to encourage these runners!



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

FREE FILM @ MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History  
Wednesday, March 11 @ 6:30  
"The Marines of Montford Point: Fighting for Freedom"  
This film profiles the first African American Recruits in the Marine Corps.

### GREAT AMERICAN CITY WIDE CLEANUP!

Saturday, March 14 join Little Rock Parks and Recreation and Keep Little Rock Beautiful as we canvas the city streets and neighborhood parks to pick up and spruce up Little Rock!  
8:00 am KICKOFF at Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center

ZUMBA BATTLE @ Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center  
Saturday, March 28th @ 10:00 am

UNDERWATER EASTER EGG HUNT @ Jim Dailey Fitness & Aquatic Center  
Saturday, March 28th @ 1:00 pm  
Swim and search for Easter Eggs, win prizes and meet the Easter Bunny! Free for members.  
Non-members pay daily fee.

## Happy March Birthday to these staff members:

Anita Bunche—22

Gina Pharis—9

Gil Standridge—3

Dale Sanford—29

Charles Combs—3

Jack Macinturff—18

Ronald Wilson—22

James Trimble—30

Angel Phillips—11

Joan Brush—14

Marc Gibson—29

Maurice Moody—25

James Bowens—22

Linda Bealer—4

Kerry Evans—2

Michael Mitchell—5

Kevin Tharp—31

Ben Bischoff, JR. —17

Matt Chastain—28

Melanie Grace—10

Janetta Palmer—6

Hannah Anderson—28

Bessie Dixon—2



## 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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.Adult Softball Registration is OPEN and live on our website! Play begins April 6! Register your team now!

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