

View from the Rock



July 2005

A publication by and for City of Little Rock employees

DIRECTOR HINTON HONORED BY RENAMING OF NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Willie Hinton has been linked with the Neighborhood Resource Center since before it opened. He led the effort to establish the facility and has worked tirelessly for it since 1997. Now, he is officially connected to it in another way. At a ceremony on June 25, the facility's name was officially changed to the Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center.

The honor recognized his many contributions to the project. He was instrumental in the decision to create the facility and shepherded it during extensive renovations. Since its opening, he has been a near-constant presence whether it is attending a meeting or simply stopping by to visit with people.

"I am deeply humbled by this day," said Director Hinton. "I was but one of many, many people who worked to make this idea into a reality. That you have chosen to honor me is overwhelming. All I can say is 'Thank you.'"

Mayor Jim Dailey chaired the program which also featured remarks from Hinton's colleagues on the City Board; family friend Andrew Jones; **City Manager Bruce T. Moore**; Al Porter, a member of the Neighborhood Resource Center Steering Committee; and Hinton's wife, Blondell. Rev. Robert Willingham of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church provided the invocation.

"Today we honor not just a man, but a dear friend," said Mayor Dailey. "It is true that he is my dear friend, and he is a great friend to everyone

gathered here. But Willie is a friend to all the citizens of Little Rock. This facility proves that point. It is not only an anchor for this neighborhood, but it helps neighborhoods from all areas of our City. And we would not have this building without the vision, dedication, hard work, blood, sweat, and tears of Willie Hinton."

The Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center is located at 3805 W. 12th Street. The building opened 99 years ago as the Lee Elementary School. In 1997, the City of Little Rock purchased the building from the Little Rock School District. Using \$1.8 million in HUD and additional City monies, the building was renovated and reopened as the Neighborhood Resource Center in June 2000.



Blondell Hinton and her husband, City Director Willie Hinton unveil the plaque commemorating the renaming of the Neighborhood Resource Center to the Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center.

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'HAUTE DOGS, KOOL CATS' TO BE FOCUS OF EVENT

Party at River Market to Raise Funds for New Little Rock Animal Shelter

It won't be raining cats and dogs, but the focus will certainly be on feline and canine friends at a party set for Tuesday, July 12, at Little Rock's River Market pavilions.

Little Rock Animal Services supporters are hosting this fun-filled event, which runs from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and is a fundraiser for Little Rock's planned Animal Village. The Animal Village, which will serve as Little Rock's new animal shelter, will be located on Kramer Street near the Jack Stephens First Tee golf course.

Although \$1.2 million for the facility was overwhelmingly approved by Little Rock voters in November 2003 as a component of the Capitol Bond program, an additional \$600,000 is needed to offer further services at the new facility.

"As we started planning for the Animal Village, we became aware of many innovative services for animals that other cities offered. In planning and designing this new building, we decided to go ahead and raise funds to get these additional services now instead of waiting for several years," said City Director **Joan Adcock**. "This should make the building state-of-the-art."

The new facility is being designed by the architectural firm Stuck & Associates. It will consist of a central corridor off of which will radiate such facilities as dog runs, medical facilities, administrative space, and animal control.

Tickets for 'Haute Dogs, Kool Cats' are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. To purchase tickets, call 223-1664 or 412-1995. The event will feature live music by Superflux, a silent auction, refreshments and a canine kissing booth. Dogs and their owners are welcome to have their photos taken and the "Pets to People" mobile adoption van will be on site.

Currently, animals are available for adoption at Little Rock Animal Services 3800 South Chester location near Interstate Park. Open hours are 11:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. For more information on Little Rock Animal Services, call 501-376-3067.

The new Pets to People mobile adoption unit made its debut at the City employee picnic. This state-of-the art adoption and education unit provides space for various sizes of dogs and cats to be seen by the public. In addition, it provides Animal Services staff the opportunity to educate the public about proper care of pets.

WWW.LITTLEROCK.ORG New City Website Launched

A new, user-friendly official City website was unveiled on June 27. This website features:

- ↔ in-depth City meeting and event schedules
- ↔ information updates from city officials
- ↔ detailed, interactive, Ward maps
- ↔ payment of certain fees on-line
- ↔ and e-newsletters

According to **Susan Langley**, Administrative Services Manager of the City Manager's Office, "On the old website, you often had to click five or six times to get to the information you wanted to find. On this website, everything can be found much easier."

More information will be in future issues of *View from the Rock*.



NAKED MOLE-RATS DEBUT AT ZOO FARMER'S MARKET AT NIGHT

The Little Rock Zoo's 23 newest animals, are a colony of naked mole-rats, said to be the ugliest animal known to man. A donation from the Mill Mountain Zoo in Roanoke, Virginia, has made the Little Rock Zoo's own naked mole-rat exhibit a reality.

Naked mole-rats are hairless African rodents found in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. They are about 3-4 inches long and weigh 1 to 2.5 ounces.

With a life span of up to 20 years, they are the only mammals to live in insect-like colonies of 20-300 with a caste system and a queen breeding female. There are workers, soldiers and breeding males like ants or bees. But being much larger, they are even more fun to observe.

They are exciting to watch in their forward and backward-scooting motions along the tunnels of the exhibit. Because there is no fat under their skin, naked mole rats' skin is wrinkled. It can be pink, gray or white/yellow.

Naked mole-rats eat roots and tubers in the wild, but in a zoo, they are fed fruit and vegetables. They have no sweat glands and their eyes and ears are tiny. Like all rodents, their two front teeth continue to grow throughout their lives and are used to dig tunnels.



Enjoying a late Spring day is one of two sloth bear cubs born at the Zoo in December. When fully grown, the adult sloth bear can weigh between 175 and 300 pounds.

The River Market's Farmers' Market will be adding an additional opportunity for customers to shop the market. The Farmers' Market Night Market will be held every Thursday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., June through August.

"We realize that not all of our customers can come to the Farmers' Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays and that much of our customers' grocery shopping takes place during the week and after 5pm. So when the farmers have the most produce we decided to add an additional day for shopping the Farmers' Market." said **Shannon Light**, River Market Manager.

RCDC SPONSORS WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION FORUM

The City of Little Rock Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission (RCDC) hosted a forum on Discrimination in the Workplace. The event was held on Thursday, June 23, at the Myer L. Titus Academic Center on the campus of Philander Smith College. It was free and open to the public.

According to RCDC Executive Director **Carlette Henderson**, A panel of local experts were on hand to: a) review and define the topic, b) educate attendees on what workplace discrimination is and is not, c) detail resources available, d) describe the events that follow once a claim is made, and more. In addition, the panel fielded questions from the audience.

"I applaud the Commission for their efforts in better educating our citizens on this issue. Our City prospers when everyone is treated fairly, and their workplace is deemed healthy and productive." said Little Rock **Mayor Jim Dailey**.

MAYOR, CITY LEADERS BREAK GROUND FOR NEW SENIOR CENTER

East Little Rock 3,000 Square Feet Building Is Another Bond Program Project

After over 30 years of programs offered in a cramped, converted office space, participants at East Little Rock's Senior Center will soon have a new 3,000 square foot building designed for their use. Ground was broken on Thursday, June 9 for the \$192,975 project that was overwhelmingly approved by Little Rock voters in November 2003.

Mayor Jim Dailey was joined by City Director **Johnnie Pugh**, and current Senior Center participants at the groundbreaking. Also on hand were members of the Project Progress Committee (a group of citizens appointed by the City Board to monitor progress on the 2004 Capital Bond program) and Parks & Recreation staff.

According to **Lareeta Robinson**, supervisor for senior programs for Little Rock Parks & Recreation, "This facility will accommodate a daily attendance averaging 40 to 50 Senior Citizens. Currently, Parks & Recreation Senior programs have an attendance of over 22,000 a year in four facilities (Dunbar Community Center, East Little Rock Community Center, Stephens Community Center, and Southwest Community Center). The total attendance for the East Little Rock Center in 2004 was 6,807."

The facility consists of one men's and one women's handicap accessible restroom, a kiln and ceramics room, a kitchen, an exercise room, and a meeting room. Additionally, it offers an office for staff and storage space. **Evelyn Tenpenny**, an activity leader at the center, noted that, "Among the many activities offered for our Seniors are: arts and crafts, exercise programs, singing, nutrition programs, and playing cards and games."

Director Pugh noted, "I am so pleased to have this new facility built. Of course I am pleased to

see something like this here in Ward 1. But it is important for more than just my Ward. It will serve people from many parts of Little Rock. Our Senior programs are so important to the participants. They are not just a place to go spend part of the day – they offer fun and fellowship."

"I think one of the reasons voters approved the Bond program in 2003, was because it offered something for everyone," said Mayor Dailey. "Not only was it balanced in all areas of the City, but every age group can benefit from it. The participants in our Senior programs are filled with so many ideas and so much excitement. I am pleased that we now will have a better space for them. This will make the program even stronger and more active. I cannot wait to see that."

The East Little Rock Senior program started in 1972. It is located at the Nathaniel Hill Community Complex on East 6th Street.



Little Rock citizens of all ages participated in the groundbreaking for the East Little Rock Senior Center. It is estimated that the new Center will be completed by early winter 2005.

'GREEN BIN-INSTANT WIN' PROGRAM OFFERS LITTLE ROCK RECYCLERS INCENTIVES

Little Rock recyclers will have the chance to win at least \$100 in cash in a program unveiled on June 2 by Little Rock Mayor **Jim Dailey** and representatives of Waste Management. The program, entitled 'Green Bin-Instant Win' is a component of the Little Rock Recycles program that Mayor Dailey and George Wheatley of Waste Management announced in April.

Joining Mayor Dailey and Mr. Wheatley at the press conference was Bob Phelps, Executive Director of Keep Arkansas Beautiful. He presented a \$2,000 grant to the City to assist in recycling efforts in Little Rock.

The 'Green Bin-Instant Win' program will begin the week of June 13th and last for twelve weeks. To participate, residents fill out and return a card that was mailed to each residence in Little Rock. Each week, one card will be drawn.

The person selected will receive \$100 if their recyclables are out that week for collection – and if the bin contains only acceptable recyclables. Should the name of the person whose card is drawn not set out their recycling that week, the \$100 will roll over to the next week, increasing the prize amount to \$200.

"I am excited to be kicking off this program," said Mayor Dailey. "Recycling is easy to do and good for the future of our City. With this program, not only are we encouraging residents to recycle, but also giving them the chance at a reward."

"Of course, for all those who are not selected for a cash prize – the reward is that they are helping the future of Little Rock. I am grateful to Waste Management for their support."

"Waste Management is proud to partner with Little Rock on these efforts," said George

Wheatley, Director of Government Affairs for Waste Management of Arkansas. "We know that the 'Green Bin-Instant Win' campaign will be a success for the City. We appreciate the fact that many people in Little Rock already recycle. But there is always room for improvement." Mr. Wheatley added, "This campaign is only one part of the Little Rock Recycles program. Residents will see more aspects of it in the coming months."

"On behalf of the citizens of Little Rock, I want to thank Keep Arkansas Beautiful for their grant to help us in recycling efforts," continued Mayor Dailey. "As the capitol city, we certainly want to do our part in statewide beautification efforts. By increasing our recycling with the Little Rock Recycles program and the 'Green Bin-Instant Win' campaign, we know that there will be less litter on the ground. I appreciate Waste Management for being a national sponsor of the Keep America Beautiful program."

"This gift is one of the many tangible benefits a community can accrue when they chose to become affiliated with Keep America Beautiful, Inc. We are happy to present the City of Little Rock with this gift to help promote recycling participation in their community. By working together, we can all help to create a cleaner and healthier environment," said Bob Phelps, State Director, Keep America Beautiful.

All of Little Rock's recycling is taken to the Recycling Alliance of America Materials Recovery Facility. In 2004, the MRF processed 4,800 tons of recycled material from Little Rock residents.


 The logo for 'Little Rock Recycles' features a large, stylized blue letter 'R' on the left. To the right of the 'R', the word 'Recycles' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'R' and the text are connected, with the 'R' appearing to be the start of the word.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JUNE 2005						
26	27	28	29	30		
	New City Hall Website Launch www.littlerock.org	Farmers Market No City Board Meeting		Farmers Market at Night		
JULY 2005						
					1	2
Remember it is illegal to shoot-off or possess fireworks within the City limits of Little Rock. This restriction protects not only personal property, but also it protects citizens from harm by these explosive objects.						Farmers Market
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	INDEPENDENCE DAY – City Hall Closed	Farmers Market No City Board Meeting	Central High 50 th Anniversary Commission – 3:30pm	Planning Comm. - 4pm Farmers Market at Night	Art at the Market Zoo Story Time 10am	Farmers Market
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Farmers Market City Board Meeting Haute Dogs, Kool Cats		Farmers Market at Night	Art at the Market Zoo Story Time 10am	Farmers Market
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Farmers Market City Board Meeting		Planning Comm. - 4pm Farmers Market at Night	Art at the Market Zoo Story Time 10am	Farmers Market
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Farmers Market City Board Meeting		Farmers Market at Night	Art at the Market Zoo Story Time 10am	Farmers Market

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