



Housing & Neighborhood Programs

Keeping Our City Beautiful Neighborhood by Neighborhood

The Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs Newsletter

April 2022

A Message from the Director:

Greetings, the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs (HNP) is responsible for managing a number of diverse services, programs, and community engagement from Animal Services, Code Enforcement, Community Development, Neighborhood Resource Specialist/Centers, Environmental Services, and Land Bank. As such, the department aspires to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Little Rock by encouraging quality, affordable development and redevelopment while working closely with neighborhood organizations to identify resources needed to strengthen and make improvements in their areas; and to protect the health and safety of the citizenry through efficient implementation of environmental and animal services codes.

This issue of our department's quarterly newsletter will highlight National Community Development week under the Community Development Division, new hires/promotion throughout the department, redevelopment in the Land Bank Division and events coming up within the next 30 days. Education is key in several divisions as the Animal Services and Code Enforcement Division will provide tips on safety, welfare of animals and ways to help beautify your neighborhood.

The Department of Housing & Neighborhood Programs staff takes Pride in their jobs, as we try to manage our many responsibilities well. If you have any suggestions on how our department functions and can improve, please let me know.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of human spirit. We are all the same in the notion: The Potential for greatness lives within each of us."

-Wilma Rudolph

Kevin D. Howard

Visit our website:

<https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/housing-and-neighborhood/>

Housing and Neighborhood Programs:

Housing & Neighborhoods Programs (HNP):

COVID

Please continue to social distance, wash your hands and stay safe. Stay connected to community resources for information about COVID-19 Vaccinations opportunities.

Stay connected to your Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Resource Officers for updates and community resources.

Mark your Calendars:

- ✚ **NUSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**
Statehouse Convention Center
May 4-7, 2022
- ✚ **Love Your Block Application deadline has been extended.**
Applications are due
May 16, 2022 by 3pm
- ✚ **Wild Wines at the LR Zoo:**
April 29 and 30.



- ✚ **Contact our office for Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA) & Central Arkansas Team Care for Homeless (CATCH) updates**
501-371-6825

The Department of Housing & Neighborhood Programs cares about all city neighborhoods.

Housing & Neighborhood Public Meetings:

- Land Bank meeting are the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **May 19th** is the next Land Bank meeting
- CHAB (Community Housing Advisory Board) meetings are held quarterly
- CATCH (Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless) Board meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month. 2022 officers have been elected.
- Annual Consolidated Plan Public Meeting and Public Hearing was conducted for uses approval of the 2022 CDBG/HOME/HOPWA funding.
- Check with your Neighborhood Associations for their regular meeting dates. Use the link to connect with Neighborhood Association Information.
<https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/housing-and-neighborhood/neighborhood-association-information/>

Housing & Neighborhoods Promotions...

Arnuard Crump- Housing Community Engagement Advocate

Mr. Crump started his tenure when the division was named the "Fighting Back Program. He has dedicated 29 years of service to the agency. HNP is proud to announce his promotion

Cassandra Bridges-Neighborhood Resource Center Coordinator

Mrs. Bridges joined Housing And Neighborhood in 2010. She is instrumental factor at our Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center. HNP proudly announces her promotion.

Housing & Neighborhoods New Hires...

Antonio Forte Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Forte started with the City of Little Rock on January 18, 2022. He will work in District 2, located at Willie Hinton Neighborhood Center.

Michael Fountain Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Fountain started with the City of Little Rock on January 18, 2022. He will work in District 3, located at Oak Forest.

Evester Gardner Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Gardner started with the City of Little Rock on March 18, 2022. He will work in District 5, located at Valley Drive.

Jose Gutierrez Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Gutierrez started with the City of Little Rock on March 28, 2022. He will work in Mobile Home area located on Mann Rd.

Community Development Division

CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOWPA, and COC grants.

Tracey Shine, Community Development Manager

IN NEED OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE?



Community Development Division is providing emergency assistance for roof, electrical, plumbing, and heating and air issues.

Qualifications include: Homeowners who are sixty-two (62) years of age or older, or disabled and whose income does not exceed program guidelines, may be considered for the Emergency Assistance Grant Program. The homeowner must have occupied and must be the primary residence of the applicant within the past 12 months prior to receiving assistance.

***An emergency is a situation or condition that occurred recently (generally within two weeks) without warning, that is detrimental to or a threat to life, health or safety, and requires immediate action.**

Apply Here: <https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/housing-and-neighborhood/home-repair-assistance-questionnaire/>

Community Development Division



CITY OF LITTLE ROCK DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



**First Time Home Buyers!
Up To \$5,000 In DPA!**



**2021 INCOME LIMITS
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2021 UNTIL SUPERSEDED**

Household	80% Low
1	\$ 40,050.00
2	\$ 45,800.00
3	\$ 51,500.00
4	\$ 57,200.00
5	\$ 61,800.00
6	\$ 66,400.00
7	\$ 70,950.00
8	\$ 75,550.00

WHAT IS THE DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

- The City of Little Rock has allocated funds to assist low and moderate-income first time homebuyers to purchase for owner occupancy residential properties within the city limits of Little Rock.
- The total of the down payment assistance from the City of Little Rock to the first-time buyer may not exceed six (6) percent of the purchase price, not to exceed \$5,000.00.
- Buyer must document that annual household income ($\leq 80\%$ area median income), adjusted for family size, does not exceed the maximums. (See low-income limits).
- Buyer must be a first-time homebuyer (not have owned any residential property within last three (3) years).
- Buyer must agree to own / occupy the property for a minimum of five (5) years (Affordability Period).
- Buyer must complete a homebuyer counseling course, acceptable to the City of Little Rock.
- The loan is forgiven in equal monthly installments over a 60-month period.
- Assistance shall be requested by applicant through a mortgage lender.
- Buyer must be approved for a 1st mortgage through a bank or mortgage company. The lender must have a physical presence (i.e., location) in Arkansas.
- All repairs must be completed on the unit prior to approval of the assistance.

HOMEBUYERS ONCE APPROVED PLEASE HAVE YOUR LENDER CALL:

City of Little Rock Department of Housing & Neighborhood Programs
Community Development Division
501-371-6825
www.littlerock.gov



Community Development Division

2022 National Community Development Week

Pictured: Day One touring *IFB Solutions*. Employment services for blind & visually impaired adults.



Pictured: Day two National Community Development Week Proclamation at the City Director's meeting.

#CDWEEK2022



NCDW CONTINUES....

Day Three Meet and Greet. Ward 1 Director Virgil Miller was the guest speaker.

Pictured: Director Howard and Ward 1 Director Virgil Miller



NCDW CONTINUES....

Day Four Groundbreaking On 3912 Lange Street. Mr Roma Isom is The CHDO Partner developing this family new construction. Three (3) bedrooms, Two (2) Bath and Two (2) car garage.

Pictured:

Left: Community Development Management team

(missing- Rickey Evans, Community Dev. Rehab Administrator):

Tracey Shine, Community Development Manager, Salectia Nichols, Community Development Administrator, Beverly Arbor, Community Development Planner.

Right: Housing and Neighborhood Programs, Director Kevin Howard.



Pictured: Left Community Development team, Mayor Frank Scott Jr., Ward 6 Director Wright, CHDO developer Roma Isom

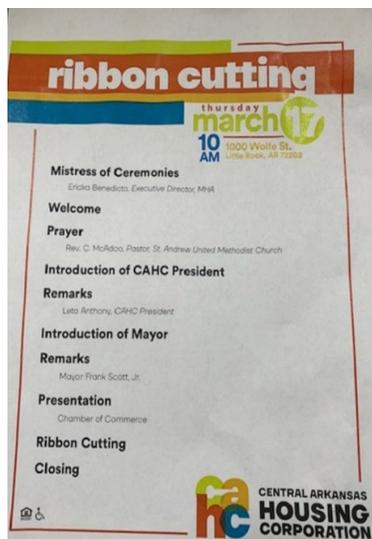
Right: Groudbreaking



For any questions regarding *Community Development Division* contact Tracey Shine 501-371-6811 or tshine@littlerock.gov.

Community Development Partnership

Pictured: *Central Arkansas Housing Corporation ribbon cutting.*



Pictured: Community Development Housing Organization (CHDO) partners.



Right: MHA *Sunset Terrace* community meeting with the developers from *Gorman & Co.*



Community Development Divison

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission:

Pictured: Left: Director Kevin Howard served at the Panel Moderator for the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission conference. **Bottom Picture:** Ateca Foreman is the Executive Director pictured in the middle



Join us...

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE

ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

APRIL 22ND 2022

9:00AM – 11:00AM

FREE Admission ~Facebook Live~

THEME:
"TURNING THE KEY ON FAIR HOUSING IN 2022"

Remarks by:
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Wanda Merritt, Director
Housing & Urban Development Little Rock Field Office
Commissioners: Tonya Kendrix, Derek Mack, Steven Blackwood, Marcy Chavez and
Executive Director, Ateca Foreman



Keynote Speaker
CALVIN KING
Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corp

The Panel

 MARGARITA SOLORIZANO Hispanic Women's Org of AR	 DARRYL MOONEY Housing & Urban Development (AR)	 JAMILLE ROGERS-THOMAS Realtor
 BELINDA SNOW N Little Rock Housing Auth	 BROOK KNOX Realtor	 NATALIE RAMM Ark Legal Aid



Panel Moderator
KEVIN D. HOWARD
Housing Director - City of Little Rock



Housing and Neighborhood Programs CDBG community engagement...

Pictured: Community Development Grant engagement with the *City of Conway*, our ACDA association members. Groundbreaking for their Homeless Overnight Emergency Shelter. 1116 Gum Springs. (Partnered with CAPCA).



Pictured: Director Kevin Howard and Tracey Shine captured on site with Mayor Bart Castleberry and his Community Development team; Felicia Rogers and Shawanna Rodgers.



Little Rock Animal Village

Tracy Roark Animal Services Manager: Animal Services Educational Tips:

- Microchipping is a great means for locating a lost dog or cat. Scanning the microchip is the first action at our Animal Village for incoming pets.
- Unconfined animals are a violation of the City Ordinance. This includes a loose dog in an unfenced front yard. Anytime a dog is out of the house or out of a fenced yard please use a leash. Failing to adhere can result in a citation. **Example:** Walking your dog walk, visiting your neighbors or going to the park with your dog requires it to be on a leash.



(Covid-19 and Animal Sheltering)

Caring of the animals in the custody of Animal Services is an everyday duty. Every day of the year, some of our staff come to the Animal Village to make sure all the animals are fed, cleaned, given medicines and some with special needs will need extra attention.

This year has been complicated because of the extra need to insure staff stays safe and healthy. We are taking a team approach to help us through the reopening of the Animal Village since the decrease in positive COVID cases. There has been an increase in animal pickup. After the increase in animals we reunited as one team.

We have practiced distancing, wearing our mask and making sure we washed our hands continuously to insure we kept each other as safe as we could. Areas of assignment also helped by keeping staff apart most of the time while on duty.

Our staff has been able to stay healthy and we have been able to continue our wonderful animal care.

Through all of 2021 to present, we continued to work hard to care for and find homes for the animals we have impounded. We have adopted, returned to owners or sent to rescue almost 2,200 animals last year. Without a staff who works hard every day we could not have done this with so many obstacles in our way. The Animal Village is undergoing new renovations. A facility expansion is coming soon. We open for animal adoptions. Volunteers are welcome.

Code Enforcement:

Brian Contino, Code Enforcement Manager

Code Enforcement Tips:

- Grass, weeds, or any other uncultivated plants must not grow to a height greater than 10 inches.
- The storage of indoor furniture and appliance is not allowed on the exterior of a property
- Homeowners are responsible for the landscape and upkeep of their property. Vegetation must be maintained and kept from growing into the public right of way and obstructing pedestrians, traffic signs or pedestrians.
- It is illegal to dispose of any items on public property. Please contact the solid waste division to have large and bulky items picked up

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Pictured

Left: Director Kevin Howard and Code Enforcement Manager Brian Contino



CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED....

Left: Code Enforcement Manager Brian Contino and Senior Code Officer Leroy Jones facilitating course



Twelve Ways to Improve your Neighborhood

1. Report crime promptly. Neighbors sometimes don't report criminal activity because they don't want to bother the police, assume the police are too short-staffed to respond or believe that there isn't much an officer can (or will) do about a given problem anyway. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism, or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee they won't. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.

2. Report nuisances and other non-criminal problems promptly. Examples: Junked cars on front lawns, abandoned autos in the streets, old mattresses left to rot in a backyard, garbage dumped illegally in a vacant lot. When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to do something," do something. Call code enforcement, non-emergency numbers, landlords, residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that may influence the issue. Then call your neighbors and ask those who are also concerned about the issue to call and report as well. Then keep calling until the issue is resolved.

3. Take away the opportunity for crime. Think about your home, car, and even your lifestyle and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. For example, lock your vehicle and never leave valuables, for a few minutes, in the car where would-be thieves might see them—trim bushes or trees on your property that offer too-convenient hiding places. Also, cut where trees and bushes block a clear view of your front door and address from the street or make it difficult for a person to see out of windows in your home. In short, make your front porch visible and make sure your home looks like it has its "eyes" (windows) open.

4. Meet the youth who live on your block and greet them by name. This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take; yet it can make a profound difference should there be a future need for adults and young people to speak to each other in the midst of a neighborhood crisis. Also, it is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other. Even those without children should know to whom the various children in the neighborhood belong. In this way, each adult is better able to help in an emergency and is better prepared to discuss problems immediately as they arise.

5. Make a list of the names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block. Not just two neighbors – set a goal of at least 10 and preferably 20 or 30. Find almost any citizen who has turned around a problem block and you will find a citizen who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where "everyone knew each other" and find that today your neighborhood isn't like that? That's true for many people. That's not "society's" fault. Instead, think of it as your own fault, and you can fix it. Unless you know neighbors' names and numbers, you can't call them about a concern or let them know about a neighborhood problem. Learn the names and phone numbers of your neighbors this weekend.

6. Make a list of landlords in your areas as well. As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and most are rightly concerned about the health of the community in which their properties stand. You can find out the name and address of the person or organization that owns any property, including the rental house next door, by contacting your county tax assessor's office. Do it today.

7. Turn your porch light on. Do this every night at dusk and keep it on until dawn. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. Turning on porch lights is a simple way to start this process. It also makes the street feel more "welcome" to good residents who are out for a walk in the evening. It communicates a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by residents. This can become a daily routine or it can be accomplished by installing a timer. It is also immediate – while you wait for local government to install that new streetlight that everyone is asking for, go ahead and add a little more light yourself and encourage other neighbors to do the same.

8. Walk around the block. It sounds simple enough, but neighbors benefit over time when more responsible citizens walk about more, particularly for those who are comfortable doing it, at night, every night around their block. At a minimum, walk around the block, once every day, preferable at night if you feel comfortable doing so. Take a moment to chat with neighbors, including youth, when the opportunity arises.

CONTINUED...

9. Drive slowly on neighborhood streets. While we often call for stop signs, lights, and speed bumps, we often forget that we can organize a means to slow down neighborhood traffic sooner. Remember that it is legal to drive a few miles per hour below the speed limit in your neighborhood. For example, if the speed limit is 25, try 20 instead. Regular slower driving on neighborhood side streets by multiple neighbors will dampen the desire of racers to use your street – it isn't as fun to cut through a neighborhood if the likelihood of being stuck behind a car traveling at a more respectful pace has increased. Also, do it on every side street in the neighborhood, not just the one near your home.

10. Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there. Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by taking away the existing litter that attracts it.

11. Stay where you are. Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long-term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep and help transform a geographic area that exists as a "neighborhood" in name only into a real community of involved people. Please, stay and help.

12. Help your neighborhood association or similar groups. If you are willing, decide what greater contribution you would like to make – then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood and how you can help and, perhaps more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood.

For any questions regarding *Code Enforcement* contact Brian Contiono 501-371-6825 or bcontino@littlerock.gov

Land Bank Division

Ruby E. Dean, Land Bank Redevelopment Administrator

The mission of the Little Rock Land Bank Commission is to reverse blight, increase home ownership and stability of property values, provide affordable housing, improve the health and safety of neighborhoods within the City of Little Rock, and maintain the architectural fabric of the community through the study, acquisition, and disposition of vacant, abandoned, tax delinquent, and City lien property while collaborating with citizens, neighborhoods, developers, nonprofit organizations and other governmental agencies. The Land Bank currently has 34 available properties for sale. The updated list is available on our website. Meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month at the Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center.

1705 S. Cedar Street-VETERAN DUPLEXES

Before



After



Pictured: *Left:* Undeveloped Land Bank parcel *Right:* Completed development

Bottom: Director Kevin Howard, Mayor Frank Scott Jr, and Land Bank Redevelopment Administrator-Ruby Dean attending the ground breaking event



LAND BANK CONTINUES... 1011 & 1021 S. Woodrow

Pictured: Land Bank parcel before development



Pictured: City of Little Rock groundbreaking event with *Mayor Frank Scott Jr.* and *Director Kevin Howard*



Pictured: Development progress



LANK BANK CONTINUES...

Land Bank Educational Tips:

- All applicants must be residents of the City of Little Rock or have a principal place of business in the City of Little Rock.
- Land banks are designed to acquire and maintain problem properties. After which, they are transferred back to responsible ownership and productive use in accordance with local land use goals and priorities. Helping to eliminate blight.
- Land bank property updates will be housed on the website. In addition, there are quarterly radio PSA's on FM station 98.9.

For any questions regarding Land Bank properties contact Ruby Dean 501-371-4848 or rdean@littlerock.gov

Community Engagment: Neighborhood Resource Specialists Valeria Tate, Neighborhood Resource Specialist Supervisor

Pictured: Valeria Tate and volunteers for neighborhood cleanup events.



Community Engagment: Neighborhood Resource Specialists

Valeria Tate, Neighborhood Resource Specialist Supervisor

Pictured: Neighborhood Association meeting.



Pictured: Arnard Crump and Freddie Davis greeted attendees for the Mayor’s State of the City Address.



For any questions regarding Neighborhood Resouce specialists or centers contact Valarie Tate 501-562-0042 o VTate@littlerock.gov

Reasons to Call 3-1-1 - City Services

To report a non-emergency item or request information:

- ✦ General City Service Information of Phone Numbers
- ✦ City Event Information
- ✦ Locations and Hours of Operation of City Properties
- ✦ Potholes that Need Repaired
- ✦ Street Sweeping Requests
- ✦ Sidewalk Repairs
- ✦ Missed Garbage Pick-ups
- ✦ Missed Recycling Pick-ups
- ✦ Garbage and Recycle Bin Issues
- ✦ Dumpster Requests
- ✦ Report High Grass and Weeds
- ✦ Request Bulky Item Pick-up
- ✦ Tree Trimming on Public Property
- ✦ Taxi/Limo Complaints
- ✦ Report Graffiti
- ✦ Parking Enforcement Issues
- ✦ Traffic Light Outage
- ✦ Street Light Outage
- ✦ Stray Animals
- ✦ Aggressive Animals and Trap Requests
- ✦ Golf Course Maintenance
- ✦ Trail Maintenance
- ✦ Trash in the Park
- ✦ Operating a Business Without a Permit
- ✦ Working Without A Permit
- ✦ Violations on a Commercial Property
- ✦ How to Dispose of Hazardous Materials and Medications

Little Rock Police Department

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Safety at your home:

- Have lights at all entrances.
- Lock doors at all times (home, garage and storage, etc.).
- Replace standard screws in your door lock w/ 3 inch screws.
- Check who is at your door before you open it. Do not open the door to a stranger.
- Always make your home look as if you are home (using light timers, leaving TV or radio on).
- Do not use your name on your mailbox.
- Do not leave your schedule on your voicemail or social media.
- Always lock your gates into your back yard.
- Post "Beware of Dog" signs on fence/gates/or in windows.
- Use "dummy cameras" if possible (great for carport areas).
- Post an "alarm sign" in your yard (you can purchase them on GOOGLE).
- Keep all valuables out of view of any windows.
- Never give personal information over the phone.
- Shred all confidential mail.
- Do inventory of your home and list all of your belongings "serial numbers" and "model numbers" (reportit.leadsonline.com).
- Place your house numbers so they can be easily visible from the street.
- Keep attic door locked (carport areas).
- Keep shrubs trimmed lower than you windows (plant "holly shrubs" if possible).
- Always lock your car doors.
- Always empty your cars of anything valuable.
- Get to know your neighbors and network anytime you see something suspicious and call 911.

DRUG DROP BOX (all prescription drugs)

**700 W. Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201**

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

LRPD Non Emergency
501-371-4829
(Vacation home report)

Downtown Patrol
501-918-5130

Northwest Patrol
501-918-3500

Southwest Patrol
501-918-3900

Crime Prevention
Officer Michelle Hill
mhill@littlerock.org
501-918-5369

Narcotics Tip Line
501-376-6683

Crime Stoppers Tip Line
501-371-INFO



Little Rock Police Departmente
700 W. Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

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