



Housing & Neighborhood Programs

Keeping Our City Beautiful Neighborhood by Neighborhood

JUNE/ JULY 2018

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Director

Victor T. Turner

During 2018, the City of Little Rock and its various departments have been busy developing goals and metrics to better measure performance and delivery of services to the citizenry. As part of the overall emphasis on performance measures, the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs (HNP) has been working to meet the challenge. Following, I will highlight a few areas and how the department is performing:

In the area of code enforcement, from January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018, 3-1-1 data revealed the Department had received 10,492 service requests over the four month period. Of those requests, 93% had been closed during that timeframe. Secondly, the Department set a goal that staff would respond to a 3-1-1 code complaint within five (5) business days from the date the initial complaint was made for both premise and housing violations. Through the end of April, the Department's initial response rate averaged 2.5 days for premise violations and 2.7 days for housing violations from the date of the initial complaint.

In the Community Development Division, which includes the administration of three federal programs (CDBG, HOME, HOPWA) totaling approximately \$3.1 million annually, over 7,800 persons are assisted yearly, which is an expenditure of roughly \$397 per person. In the CDBG program, 96 owner-occupied homes were rehabilitated at an approximate cost of \$7,100 per unit. In 2017, the department also provided meals to 150 senior citizens through CareLink's Meals on Wheels Program at an average annual cost of \$372 per person.

The Animal Services Division continues to break records in reducing the euthanizing of animals and increasing adoption rates. As of May 2018, Animal Services had either reunited pets with owners, sent animals to a rescue agency or placed for adoption 1,174 animals, which is roughly 74% of the animals that entered the Animal Village.

The aforementioned statistics are just a few of the areas HNP is striving to provide quality service to the city's residents. This is not to say we are satisfied with our efforts, but more to illustrate the employees of HNP are working hard to continue making the city of Little Rock a great place to live, work, and play.

As always, for your non-emergency services, please contact 3-1-1 or notify staff at any one of our Neighborhood Resource Centers.

"All will concede that in order to have good neighbors, we must also be good neighbors. That applies in every field of human endeavor."
Harry S. Truman



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs is very proud of our very own Jessie Jackson, Jr., Community Service Coordinator, recipient of the 2018 Mahlon A. Martin Employee of the Year Award.

Jessie is seen working with all departments and in neighborhoods throughout the City. He is truly the embodiment of what it means to be a public servant working hard for the residents of Little Rock.

As part of the recognition, Mr. Jackson received a monetary gift and an Employee of the Year Appreciation plaque presented by City Manager Bruce Moore.

World Changers Press Conference



World Changers is a faith based organization in partnership with City of Little Rock Housing and Neighborhood Programs Department. World Changers provides labor for painting of elderly and low income citizen's homes. Each summer over 200 volunteers embark upon the City of Little Rock to Change the World by painting the exterior of homes and conducting minor repairs. This year World Changers painted 13 houses which 7 are located in Ward 6. This was the 16th year this partnership has taken place.

LABOR PROVIDED BY



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YOUTH BUILD

Youth Build is working on a project located at 2101 S. Valentine Street in partnership with the Housing and Neighborhood Programs Department. We are demolishing old siding at the structure. Youth Build members are learning on the job training from experienced carpenters.

This is the second project that Youth Build is working on as a partnership with the city. The first project that was completed was located at 2218 Martin Street. Members installed a privacy fence at this location.



The Little Rock Animal Village



Over 1,200 animals have been adopted, released to their owner, transferred to various Rescue groups or placed on the ASPCA Relocation truck. This year will be our best year ever, with the new addition of a Communal Cat Room coming this month and the opening of the Dog Quarantine in the late fall.

New Addition to the Animal Village



Please plan to join us on July 14, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. to dedicate our new cat area.

On July 14, 2018 we will have a special grand opening for our new Communal Cat Room. This will be a space that will allow cats to roam free while waiting for their forever home. This space is visible from the lobby so citizen can watch cat play and interact together. The area also has a door to an outside porch style area to allow the cats to get fresh air and volunteers to sit and actually interact with their feline friends.

We have planned for several years but funding has not been available. Through the efforts of Friends of the Animal Village and THV11 the entire cost of this addition is paid by donations.

The addition will be named "Joey's Playroom" after THV11 famous Joey "the Garden Cat" who was lost to FIV which is an immunodeficiency virus in cats. We will use this room to promote adoptions as well as testing and vaccinations for cat diseases.

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Urban Safety and Environmental Coordinator

Matthew Higgins, joined the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs (HNP) as the AmeriCorps Urban Safety and Environmental Coordinator in June after previously completing a one-year internship in the HNP Administration office. Upon entering into the position as AmeriCorps Coordinator, Matthew inherited some seasoned members as well as 31 new members for the summer.

This program is focused on utilizing the Department's position to leverage resources to provide another way for residents' homes in selected areas of the City to receive assistance such as minor rehab, painting and energy efficiency retrofits. The program aims to reach out into the community and to be a force for good. The members are learning how to perform the work but are also producing a valuable good for the community, something that can be seen and that hopefully can shine a light on these wonderful residents and members.

Prior to joining HNP full-time, Matthew focused his internship on collecting, standardizing, and analyzing housing-related data. His efforts allowed accessibility of several datasets often requested by constituents on Citizen Connect, the City's open data portal. Matthew also worked closely with the AmeriCorps program and Animal Village, by digitizing historical data sets collected in paper versions.

Matthew is excited to have an opportunity to be a part of something so important in the Little Rock community. The skills learned through the internship process and the knowledge gained from the experience of his coworkers in the department are definitely going to be invaluable to his success as the AmeriCorps Coordinator.

Land Bank Purchased Properties for Redevelopment

The Land Bank recently purchased two existing structures in the Love Neighborhood area that will be rehabbed and brought up to code. They will eventually be sold as affordable housing. 2301 S. Martin is a 1041 square foot structure with stucco siding. 2308 S. Martin is a 560 square foot structure that may get an additional bedroom.



Land Bank Commission meetings are held third Wednesday of each month at the Centre @ University.

Next scheduled meeting is July 18th 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Code Enforcement

Keeping Our City Beautiful One Property at a Time

The Code Enforcement Division is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the City of Little Rock through public awareness, education and fair and impartial enforcement of city codes. Our dedicated, enthusiastic, professionally trained officers are committed to serving our community.

This is accomplished by the enforcement of our rules and regulations. The fair and equitable enforcement of our codes and ordinances is our highest priority. The Code Enforcement Officers are available for questions and to alleviate neighborhood concerns as it relates to quality of life. The Code Enforcement Division completed Inspection Protocol Training February 16, 2018, to enhance code enforcement officers' skills and knowledge to help protect the health, safety and welfare of residents within the City of Little Rock. The UPCS (Uniform Physical Conditions Standards) inspection protocol assesses 61 items divided into five (5) areas. Each area has several items with specified defects to identify levels of damage and its value for importance through the preservation and improvement of the housing by assuring safe, decent, and sanitary housing while conserving the integrity of Little Rock.

Our Code Enforcement team has participated in team building exercises. Team building brings people together by encouraging collaboration and teamwork. Fun activities that help people see each other in a different light allow them to connect in a different setting. People on our team are asked to think about the implications of these activities at their workplace.

One of the most powerful reasons for team building is to get results through a series of planned team-oriented events that are fun and motivational. Teams build skills in the areas of communication, planning, problem-solving and conflict resolution.



TO REPORT CODE VIOLATIONS & NON-EMERGENCIES DIAL

3-1-1

CITY OF LITTLE ROCK IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM GRAND OPENING



On Saturday July 7th, 2018 Housing and Neighborhood Programs was honored to be a part of the grand opening of the Multicultural Liaison's office located at the Wakefield Resource Center. After three years of planning, hard work and determination the City of Little Rock Identification card program is now a reality. The City of Little Rock Identification program was all made possible in part by Mayor Mark Stodola, Chief Kenton Buckner, City Manager Bruce Moore, Director Joan Adcock, Maricella Garcia, Emily Cox Resource Specialists and the Working Together in the Community members.

This program will be available to residents 14 and older who have made Little Rock their home. Participating banks include First Security and Hope Credit Union, which will be accepting the Little Rock Identification cards for citizens to access opening of bank accounts. The homeless residents will also be able to receive an identification card regardless of their income status. Little Rock residents who also have any other type of identification can also benefit from this program, since it includes emergency contact information on the back of the ID, along with any medical condition the resident may have. The first ones to receive the City of Little Rock identification card included: Mayor Mark Stodola, Chief Kenton Buckner, City Manager Bruce Moore, Multicultural Liaison Maricella Garcia, Director Joan Adcock, Sargent Jacob Tobler and Resource Specialist Doris Gonzalez.

Residents began lining up around 5:00 a.m. and continued to arrive at the office until 2:00 p.m. Transportation and refreshments were also made available to the residents along with fun activities for the children. By the end of the event 179 residents had made appointments for July, August and September. So far there have been more that 320 appointments scheduled and more are being made.

July Events

33rd Annual Fishing Derby

July 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00
MacArthur Park in Little Rock

University District - 9:00 a.m.

Farmers Market (Adjacent to
and east of UALR Plaza
Each Thursday

Mobile Market - 9:30 a.m.

13th and Cedar Hill
Each Monday

CVSS Knitting Class

Each Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.
2715 W. 7th Street

Southwest United for Progress

1st Monday of month at 6:30
p.m. Southwest Community
Center 6401 Baseline Road

Coalition of Greater Neighborhoods

2nd Saturday of month at 10:00
a.m.
Willie Hinton Resource Center
3805 West 12th St.

Southwest Health Coalition

2nd Monday of month at 11:00
a.m. Southwest Community
Center 6401 Baseline Road

Neighborhood Connections

July 28th 8:00 a.m. to 10:00
West Central Sports Complex
4521 Barrow

Back to School / Health Fair

Saturday July 21
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
West Central Sports Complex
4524 John Barrow

*For Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center Reservations please contact
Cassandra Bridges at: 501-379-1500*

**Willie Hinton Resource Center 3805 West 12th Street,
Community and Economic Development Agency**



Benefit Enrollment Center of Pulaski County

ncoa
National Council on Aging



Executive Director, Susa Forte

**Contact Numbers: 501-379-1549 and 501-379-1556/ 501-379-1541 Fax
8:00-4:00 Monday – Thursday;
Friday by appointments ONLY**