

## **A Message from the Director**

### ***"Spring Cleaning"***

Spring is quickly approaching and maintenance of vacant lots are oftentimes a code enforcement issue and a blight in the neighborhood. It is important for property owners to keep their properties cut and cleaned. City ordinance requires that the height of grass to not exceed 10 inches to be in compliance. So far in 2019, there have been 1,668 service requests entered in the 3-1-1 system for high grass. The maintenance of lots and structures play a vital role in the property values in our neighborhoods. We encourage residents to download the 3-1-1 application on their smart phones or contact the 3-1-1 office to report violations.

***"You shouldn't have to leave your neighborhood to live in a better one."***

***Majora Carter***

*Victor T. Turner*

## **Second Annual Appreciation Banquet**



Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.



Program Presenter, Evangeline Parker



Love Your Block Project Winner

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019, neighborhood associations were recognized for their outstanding work within their communities. This annual event is a fundraiser presented by the Department Housing and Neighborhood Programs, Neighborhood Connection, and Team NUSA.

Capitol View Stiff Station Association was the 1st Place winner of the Love Your Block Grant and was presented a plaque by Housing & Neighborhood Director, Victor Turner for their unique community project of a bus stop bench.



The AmeriCorps Urban Safety and Environmental Program in the City of Little Rock is committed to improving neighborhoods by promoting safety, energy efficiency and housing revitalization. The purpose of the program is to facilitate revitalization projects and assist with projects geared toward reducing the crime rate and increasing safety and security.

The City of Little Rock AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program (COLR ACUSEP) is designed to foster safer communities through completing residential safety audits, implementing energy efficiency measures, and establishing neighborhood watch programs. The COLR ACUSEP works with residents to create neighborhood programs that will focus on ways to reduce crime in their areas.

Our goal is to create an environment of residents eager to network within their community to promote crime prevention. AmeriCorps members may be seen in your neighborhood!

**Benefits of becoming a member are as follows:**

- Segal Education Award up to \$5,920.00
- Postponing student loan payments and getting interest paid
- Living allowance
- Child care benefit program

**For more information, please contact:**

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# CODE ENFORCEMENT

The *Arkansas Region of the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE)* is a new organization whose mission is to promote and advance the code enforcement profession throughout the state of Arkansas by offering comprehensive education and certification through the national code enforcement organization. On January 16-17, 2019, the Arkansas Region of the American Association of Code Enforcement participated in the Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference as an exhibitor.



On March 13, 2019, the first training/certification class was held in Little Rock, Arkansas at the Clinton Presidential Center. The training was free to members of the Arkansas Region-American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE). The training began at 7:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. that day. The membership drive brought in over 110 members from over 50 different cities to our Arkansas Region of AACE. The Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge was the speaker for the conference.



## LITTLE ROCK ANIMAL VILLAGE



As spring arrives we will be seeing many more dogs roaming our neighborhoods, which is an issue that can mostly be prevented. As the seasons change from winter to spring female dogs will go in heat which will cause male dogs to walk out of their confinement to breed. This causes more problems for our neighborhoods and can cause a normally mild tempered dog to become aggressive defending their "turf". This could also lead to dog fights and owners getting bitten trying to separate the animals.

We can solve this problem with one solution. Have your pet spayed or neutered. This simple thing will make such a difference in your pet's life along with safer neighborhoods. You will notice your dog will become less likely to roam or want to get out of its yard; its temperament will be gentler to other animals and people. It will also reduce or eliminate the chances of your pet getting cancer later in life.

Spaying and neutering your pet is the best solution to reduce the over-population problem of animals in our city. Last year we brought in 4,122 animals and only 395 or 10% of the animals were reclaimed by an owner. The animals that remain are the unwanted or stray animals that are causing issues in our neighborhoods.

If you need assistance in getting your pet spayed or neutered, we have some low cost solutions locally that will be able to assist in the sterilization.

Please call the Little Rock Animal Village at (501) 376-3067 for options.





## WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER (WARD 6) DISPLAYS COMMUNITY PRIDE

West Central Community Center displayed community pride by honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a group clean-up project. Approximately 73 volunteers from neighborhood associations, churches, civic organizations, high schools, colleges, and city employees came together at West Central Community Center for the annual MLK Community Service Project.

Volunteers received a continental breakfast and a warm greeting from Ward 6 City Director, Doris Wright, after which groups filed out to clean up the following areas: Kanis Road, John Barrow, 36<sup>th</sup> Street and portions of Colonel Glenn.

After the completion of the cleanup, the group grilled hotdogs and hamburgers and played basketball.





## APPRECIATION DAY @ WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER

The West Central Community Center showed appreciation to our public servants on **March 2, 2019**. The event kicked off with a welcome by Ward 6 Director Doris Wright. A friendly game of basketball began at 10 a.m. with a special halftime presentation for Little Rock police officers and firefighters.

The final score of the game was Little Rock Firefighters **59** - Little Rock Police Officers **47**

After the game the officers, firefighters and their families had lunch, which was donated by Trio's, Copeland's and Shopper's Value.



## Hometown Health Improvement

The Southwest Little Rock Hometown Health Improvement (SWLRHHI) meeting is normally held at the Southwest Community Center but for the new year it was held at the State Capitol. Representative Fredrick Love, District 29, who covers southwest Little Rock, gave an update from this year's legislative session. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) wants to challenge their scope of practice and Optometrists want to do eye procedures that are not normally in their scope of practice. Pharmacists want to give birth control pills to young women for a six month period of time. This bill was voted down, but after another vote it passed. The Health Care Conscience act is coming up and in this bill a doctor can invoke his or her religious preference not to treat a patient, but if it is an emergency he or she cannot withhold treatment. Representative Love made us welcome to come and sit in on a debate session sometime. The Resource Specialist's present were Linda Williams, Valeria Tate, Doris Gonzalez and Freddie Davis. There were 20 persons in attendance.



**Quarterly Neighborhood Connection**  
**When: April 27<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Where: 500 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street**



## Rose Creek Park

Capitol View-Stift Station volunteers spent the day cleaning up phase one of their park! Volunteers enjoyed great weather and fellowship along with getting a lot accomplished.



Volunteers also participated in the Keep Little Rock Beautiful Cleanup. Volunteers from Phoenix Recovery were present to help out with this event. Working together benefits us all!



## Make Something Good

Sometimes you can't do much about what happens, but here's what you can always do. You can make something good out of it. You cannot prevent the tragedy, the injustice, the heartache that's already gone down. Yet you can work to make something good from it.

You can smile, look forward, and hold your head up high. You can choose to be a positive influence in each moment that you have the good fortune to occupy.

Driven by your intention to do so, you can make something good out of it. With gratitude, responsibility, compassion and love, you can give life a more positive version of itself.

You don't have to complain or regret or blame or seethe in anger. You can stand up, step forward, with enthusiasm, with good cheer, and make something good of it.

From the good, the bad, the ugly, the sad, the joyous, the uncertain, choose to respond in a positive, life-affirming way. See what's possible, do what you can do, and make something good.



## Back to Basic Mentoring Program

Upper Baseline Resource Specialist, Doris Gonzalez, has partnered with Upper Baseline/Windermere Neighborhood Association president, Pamela Bingham, Kierra Williams (Math tutor) and Tawan Downs (Organizer) in mentoring children from the Auxora Arms Apartments at The Shack.

The first session of "Back to Basics" was a great success and the children had tremendous fun. The mini classes assisted the students (Pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade) in math, reading, writing and Spanish. The children are excited about attending these sessions in the future and having fun while learning.



## World Changers 2019

This will be the 16th year that the City of Little Rock has partnered with World Changers using Community Development Block Grant funds to paint and do minor repairs to the exterior of houses for very-low elderly residents. If you are interested in receiving assistance to get your home painted and receive minor repairs to the exterior of your home, the following guidelines will apply:

- You must be at least 62 years of age or disabled
- You must own and occupy the home as your principle residence
- You must meet the income guidelines for the program

The Community Development Division is now accepting applications for assistance for the World Changers Program 2019. Please contact the Community Development Division Technicians, Brenda Johnson or Tracye Ross at 501-371-6825 to see if you qualify to receive assistance. The application deadline is May 16, 2019.

