



Housing & Neighborhood Programs

Keeping Our City Beautiful Neighborhood by Neighborhood

The Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs Newsletter

July 2021
MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Director:

I bring you a wealth of greetings on behalf of the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs (HNP). As we enter the second half of the year and summer months, we continue to fulfill our goals set for 2021. HNP staff in our 6 divisions has devoted their time and efforts to our mission which is to enhance the quality of life for 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 and enforcement of environmental and animal services codes. In this newsletter you will review information on each division over the past month; staff new hires, retirees, grants available, and social information for assistance.

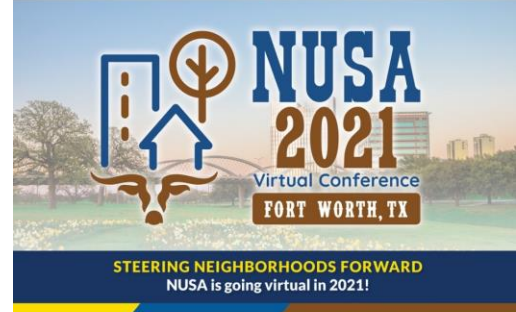
Our Vision: The City of Little Rock is a leading southern city. A vibrant, safe, innovative city that provides an excellent and sustainable quality of life where all families, individuals, and business can thrive.

“We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.” – Jesse Owens

Kevin D. Howard

Housing and Neighborhood Programs:

Housing & Neighborhoods: Attended NUSA Conference



Community Engagment:

COVID

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

City Hall and Neighborhood Resource Centers reopened to the Public: **June 01, 2021**

Pictured: Southwest Community Cleanup on June 12, 2021.



Public Meetings:

- Land Bank meeting are the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **July 21st** is the next Land Bank meeting
- Impediments minutes are available, From **Thursday, May 27th** meeting
- CHAB meetings held quaterly

Little Rock Animal Village

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 has to 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 took a team approach at first and helped us through the early months of the pandemic. Our staff broke up into two separate teams that would come in on different days to care for the animals. 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 greatest concern would be if several of the staff was to contract the virus who would care for the animals? Our staff has been able to stay healthy and we have been able to continue our wonderful animal care.

Through all of 2020 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.

Community Development Division CELEBRATED NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH IN JUNE!

City of Little Rock
Down Payment Assistance Program
Community Development Division
Telephone: 501-371-6825



www.littlerock.gov

Notice to First-time home buyers:

Please have your lender call to find out how you can get to up to \$5,000 in DPA!

* Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, we will only be accepting DPA applications where the home is either vacant or a new construction*





Pictured:

Down Payment Assistance Seminar held at the Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center on June 17, 2021.

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.

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

***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.**

HAPPY RETIREMENT!!!

On **May 13th**, the Community Development Division celebrated Mrs. Willie Carpenter's retirement. She retired after 26 years of dedicated service. Mrs. Carpenter was a Resource Specialist Supervisor. She was an instrumental resource for the City of Little Rock resource centers. "Her legacy of service will forever reign among the resource centers."



Pictured: Ms. Willie Carpenter (Honoree) & Director Kevin Howard (Supervisor)



On **June 24th**, the Community Development Division celebrated Mr. Ed Garland's retirement. He retired after nine instrumental years of dedicated service. Mr. Garland was the Code Enforcement Manager. He was a transformational leader for the City of Little Rock Code Enforcement. He leaves behind classes of recruits and inclusive processes to assist neighborhoods throughout our city.



Pictured: Director Kevin Howard (Supervisor) and Ed Garland (Retiree).



Pictured: Celebration attendees.

Housing & Neighborhoods

Welcomes....



Tracey Shine

Tracey joined the City of Little Rock team as the Community Development Manager.

Tracey is a native of Blytheville, Arkansas. She relocated to Little Rock in 1992 to attend college. She is a proud mother of two adult daughters (one future Son-in-Law).

She earned her Bachelor's degree from Philander Smith College and her MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Tracey's passion for community resources and programming began with her social service work in 1996. She brings 17 years of service from the State of Arkansas.

(Department of Human Services). In addition, she is actively engaged in various civic groups throughout the State of Arkansas.

She has a great knowledge for community engagement, grants, administration, and leadership through applicable state and federal regulations.

Her mantra, "Enjoy everyday with purpose; using integrity, equity and inclusion".



Carmen Hood

Carmen Hood is a Community Development Administrative Specialist with the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Programs. She began work with the City of Little Rock in May 2021.

Carmen was born and raised in the city of Little Rock, graduating from Hall High School. She has a passion for volunteering with community outreach programs, particularly with youth in urban areas.

Carmen is a caregiver for her 90-year-old grandmother and enjoys traveling with friends in her free time.

City of Little Rock Code Enforcement

A Message from The Manager
Ed Garland



Fast forward to June 2021:

I would like to take this time and thank each of you for having the pleasure of working with you as the Division Manager during the past 8+ years. While our family had its squabbles, I am proud to say that I had the pleasure of working with some the finest men and women within the City of Little Rock during this time. Several years ago, officer Freddie Morgan stated that officers enter over 80% of the complaints/service request and was in fact correct and a testament to the talented staff that already existed. All we did was simply validate his statement – (Premier One CSR Mobile App-Motorola). The application is now used daily in managing code enforcement processing of service request.

While we have been able to address some of your concerns about excessive paperwork, formal training, technology, opportunity for advancement, acceptable pay, and others. There is much yet to be done as the job is changing and the technology to perform it. One question I would suggest you continue to ask yourself is, “ARE WE AS EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE AS WE COULD BE?”

May I encourage each of you to continue your commitments to improving the quality of life for the citizens in this great city. Please stay active with our State of Arkansas Region-AACE organization particularly since Little Rock spearheaded its origin, remain active nationally within the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE), and continue to offer suggestions to leadership about those things that would enhance your ability to do your jobs.

May God continue to bless each of you and your families.

“The Outsider”

Meet Our Newest Code Enforcement Officers



Gerome Chism

Gerome Chism recently retired from Pulaski County Government after 30 years. On May 10, 2021, he decided to start a new career with the City of Little Rock.

Gerome is from Forrest City, AR. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Art degree in Criminal Justice. He received his master's degrees from Webster University a few years later. Gerome has two adult children and several grandchildren. He is excited to have the opportunity to work for the great city of Little Rock.

Melody Manning-Dismuke

Melody Manning-Dismuke began working with the City of Little Rock on May 10, 2021, as a Code Enforcement Officer-Rental Team.

Melody is from Magnolia, AR, and a graduate of Southern Arkansas University. She is a mother of two children ages 14 and 3. In her spare time, Melody likes crafting and cheering her son on at the baseball field. Melody comes to us from Affordable and Public Housing, where she worked for 13.5 years. Melody is glad to be a part of the team.

Kevin Jones

Kevin Jones joined the City of Little Rock May 10, 2021, as a Code Enforcement Officer.

Kevin grew up in Little Rock Arkansas. He graduated from Philander Smith College with a bachelor's in business administration. He has a background in Sales and Promotions. Kevin a proud father of 1 daughter.



Back row, left to right:

Officer Kevin Jones - District #5 Southwest - Little Rock, AR
Philip Arends - Code Officer - Tonitown, AR
Shelby Slater, Jr - Superintendent Public Works-Dumas, AR
Officer Gerome Chism - District #5 Southwest - Little Rock, AR

Front row, left to right:

Leicester Bell - Code Officer - Dumas, AR

Community Partnership and Resources CDBG Grant

Housing and Neighborhoods was happy to partner with Family Promise of Pulaski County (Second Baptist Church Downtown) for their COVID-19 vaccination clinic (flyer below).



Pictured, left to right: Director Cynthia Ramey & Vadahl Jones (Family Promise)

More Partnership and Resources: CDBG Grant

CADC and Care-Link continue to assist our communities by providing rental assistance (CADC) and Meals-on-Wheels (Care-Link) to the senior community.

COVID-19

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



FAMILY PROMISE OF PULASKI COUNTY
AND SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
PARTNERED WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PRESENTS



COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

PROVIDING THE MODERNA AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINES*

MAY 26TH

10AM TO 1PM

FAMILY PROMISE MAIN BUILDING
721 S CUMBERLAND ST
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72202

*LIMITED NUMBER OF MODERNA VACCINE AVAILABLE
(1ST COME, 1ST SERVED)



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 45 available properties for sale. Meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month at the Willie Hinton



Pictured: The Land Bank donated property to the Village Place, LLC for a community garden, the cleanup and ground breaking ceremony was May 8th



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.

2020 Land bank Properties Transferred	
1701 S. Cedar.....	\$250
1709 S. Cedar.....	\$250
1719 S. Cedar.....	\$250
8312 Colonel Glenn Rd.....	\$25,000
3316 Maryland.....	\$250
3423 W. 10 th Street.....	\$3,249.61
3401 W. 10 th Street.....	\$3,000
2301 S. Martin.....	\$22,000
3515 W. 11 th Street.....	\$1,166.66
3519 W. 11 th	\$1,166.66
3911 W. 11 th Street.....	\$1,666.66
1605 S. Jones.....	\$3,695.33
2522 W. 17 th Street.....	\$1,000
2423 W. 17 th Street.....	\$3,695
2021 Land bank Properties Transferred	
1921 S. Cedar.....	\$250
1919 S. Cedar.....	\$250
1923 S. Cedar.....	\$250
2013 S. Maple.....	\$9,000
2021 S. Maple.....	\$10,000
2017 S. Maple.....	\$1,500
2308 S. Martin.....	\$1,500
2613 Abigail.....	Donated
4021 W. 23rd.....	Donated
4624 W. 23rd.....	Donated
4301 W. 25 th Street.....	Donated
5118 W. 31st Street.....	Donated
3101 S. Arch.....	Donated
3104 W. 14 th	\$8,000.00

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

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