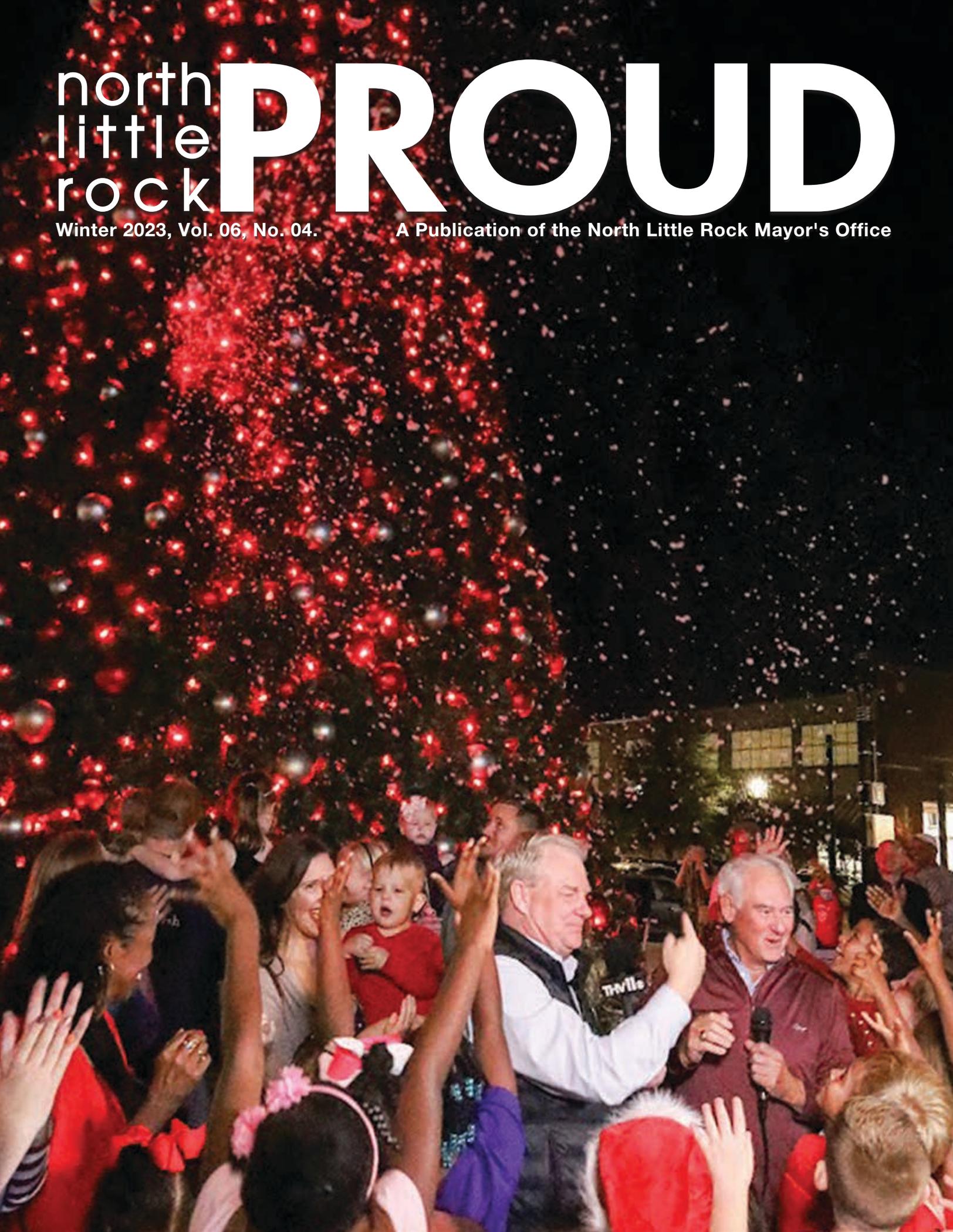


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PROUD

Winter 2023, Vol. 06, No. 04.

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office



As we enter the holiday season, I encourage you to spend time with your family and friends. We recently opened the new fire station in Burns Park, broke ground on a new fire station in the east part of our city and completed plans and are prepared to begin construction on the new Central fire station on Main Street. Our new outdoor pickleball complex is open and many are enjoying it. The new Baptist Health clinic in Rose City will be completed this summer. I am so proud of the hard work by all of our city employees during 2023. Remember the reason for the season! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Terry C. Hartwick
 Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

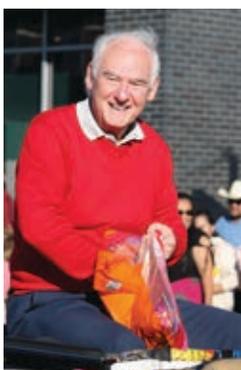


Tom Brannon with Today's THV 11 joined Mayor Hartwick and hundreds for the Mayor's Annual Tree Lighting this year.



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 rock **PROUD**

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MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

TOTAL ECLIPSE 2024

EXPERIENCE TOTALITY
WATCH PARTIES
CELESTIAL GALA
INTERACTIVE FUN
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
EXPLORE THE LOCAL SCENE
KAYAK TOURS

NLR North Little Rock TOURISM

Don't get left in the dark.

TIMING MONDAY, APRIL 8:

Start of partial eclipse: 12:34 p.m.
Start of total eclipse: 1:51 p.m.
Maximum totality: 1:52 p.m.
End of total eclipse: 1:54 p.m.
End of partial eclipse: 3:12 p.m.



SHOP AHEAD

Pick up medicine and necessary items before the weekend. It will be a brief period, so no need to stockpile.

OBSERVE SAFELY

To view safely, you need eclipse glasses that comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard. Glasses will be available for purchase at the North Little Rock Welcome Center (600 Main St., Ste. 120) in late 2023.

LEARN & BE PRESENT

This natural phenomenon won't occur in the U.S. again until 2045! Eclipse resources are available through Central Arkansas Astronomical Society and North Little Rock Public Library System.

ADAPT & ADJUST

Plan ahead, postpone activities until later in the week and prepare for traffic delays citywide. For up-to-date traffic, visit iDriveArkansas.com.

REDUCE TRAVEL

Carpool, use public transit, walk, cycle or work remotely if possible on Monday, April 8, particularly between noon and 4 p.m.

North Little Rock is within the narrow path of totality of the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse. 70,000 visitors to North Little Rock are anticipated.



MAPS, EVENTS & UPDATES➔
northlittlerock.org/2024-solar-eclipse-in-north-little-rock



Pickleball! Pickleball!



The City of North Little Rock is excited to announce the opening of the new Burns Park Pickleball Complex. The 12-court facility will provide much needed playing space for the growing number of pickleball advocates locally and throughout our state. "Pickleball is the fastest growing sport around. I am glad we now have such a nice, outdoor facility for the pickleball community to enjoy," shared Mayor Hartwick. The Divine Mercy Health Center recently held the Arvest Big Dill Pickleball Tournament at the complex. 



Burns Park UPDATES

The City of North Little Rock opened the soccer complex in Burns Park to motor vehicular traffic via Championship and Tournament Drives earlier this month. Soccer play has resumed in the park. Entry and exit to the soccer complex is available to vehicular traffic on Championship and Tournament Drives only. Arlene Laman remains closed due to the hazardous roads but should be open by spring. Foot and bike traffic should be mindful of vehicular traffic and consider that drivers might be distracted viewing the area. The fencing that has been in place since the March 31 tornado restricting walkers and bikers from leaving the river trail has been removed allowing entry to the roads and trails around the soccer complex. The city continues to work diligently to complete the restoration efforts in Burns Park. 

The Burns Park Tennis Center offers 22 lit, outdoor courts and six indoor courts for your game, set, and match. Tennis is a life-time sport, not only because you can play it for the rest of your life but also for the values it teaches. When you reach a high level as a tennis player you have gone through a process that has taught your child to be self-reliant, self-confident, possess a strong work ethic and most importantly, shown them a path that they can use the rest of their lives in whatever career they choose to pursue. Our teaching professionals offer private and group tennis lessons for youth and adults. League play for adults is offered for a variety of



Junior Progressive Tennis Academy

Call Today to Sign Up!

501-791-8585

burnsparktennis.com

- Ages 11-18
- Ages 10-12
- Ages 8-10
- Ages 5-8



Caroline Juels Jones is the #1 player for North Little Rock High School Wildcats and is ranked #1 in the state for her age group. Caroline is an avid participant at the Burns Park Tennis Center where she takes lessons and practices for her high school team.

divisions. Burns Park Tennis is excited to announce a new, Progressive Junior Tennis Academy for youth ages 5-18. Several four-week sessions are offered that meet numerous times a week: Red Ball for ages 5-8; Orange Ball for ages 8-10; Green Ball for ages 10-12; and Yellow Ball for ages 11-18. For more information about the Burns Park Tennis Center, court reservations, lessons, and leagues, please contact us at 501-791-8585 or visit us online at burnsparktennis.com.



Progress in Our City



Federal Metals

The Federal Metal Company is a leading supplier of brass and bronze ingot to the foundry industry throughout the world. With a proud tradition of quality and customer focus spanning over 100 years, Federal Metal produces hundreds of tons of ingot every week. Federal Metal also specializes in lead-free casting alloys, scrap metal products, conversion and tolling work. Their superior technical expertise means they can deliver solutions to meet the wide variety of metal casting needs. Federal Metal's expansion into North Little Rock signifies a momentous economic stride for the region. The project is expected to generate 40 new job op-

portunities, providing employment stability and growth prospects for local residents. With an average annual salary of \$49,282, these jobs promise financial security for employees and their families. Additionally, the infusion of Federal Metal into the community is set to contribute significantly to the local economy. The company will bring a substantial new payroll of \$1.9 million annually, fostering increased financial vitality within the region. Furthermore, the investment made by Federal Metal in North Little Rock stands at an impressive \$17.8 million, underscoring their commitment to the community's growth and development.

Rose City Baptist Health Clinic

The City is pleased with the progress we are making at the Rose City Health Clinic. The health clinic is expected to be completed by the summer of 2024. 



City Breaks Ground on SOLAR Partnership



Today's Power, Inc. (TPI), a local renewable energy solutions provider, and the North Little Rock Electric Department (NLRED), recently broke ground on a 5MW solar array project that will bring clean and sustainable energy to the residents of North Little Rock. The project site is located off Industry Drive in North Little Rock. This innovative partnership is aimed at enhancing the region's energy infrastructure and promoting environmental sustainability. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. Once operational, it will generate clean electricity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create a brighter and more sustainable future for North Little Rock. 



Today 7:45 PM

OUT

We are aware of outages in your area. A crew has been dispatched. For additional details, please click [HERE](#).

Today 8:15 PM

STATUS

Your outage has been assessed. Estimated restoration time is 11:45 PM. For additional details, please click [HERE](#).

Today 10:12 PM

Your outage has been restored. Thank you for your patience.

 **Coming Soon!** Update your phone number today at nlrelectric.com/phone 

Christmas in North Little Rock: Mayor's Tree Lighting



Christmas in North Little Rock: Christmas Parade



NEW FIRE STATIONS



BURNS PARK FIRE STATION 8



BLAZE FIRE STATION 11



Groundbreaking of Blaze Fire Station 11

Rendering of Blaze Fire Station 11

CENTRAL FIRE STATION 1



The City purchased property at 13th & Main Streets, demolished the Argenta School and has prepared the land to begin construction on the new 22,000 square foot Central fire station in the spring of 2024. The current Central Fire Station is 62 years old and is in need of numerous, costly repairs. The new design will have five pull through bays, a mechanics shop, a decontamination corridor, a gym, 14 bedrooms, a large supply room and numerous offices. The city is excited about constructing the new fire station which will improve the response time to many locations and will also provide easier access to the main intersections and freeways in our city.



NLR Police work to increase SAFETY



Kirk Lane, Director of Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership; Tenesha Barnes, Deputy Director of Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership; U.S. Senator John Boozeman; Tom Fisher, Arkansas State Drug Director; and Lieutenant Amy Cooper with the North Little Rock Police Department are pictured at the North Little Rock Police Department's Drug Take Back event. (right) North Little Rock Police Chief Patrick Thessing braved the rain with North Little Rock police offers in collecting prescription drugs during the Drug Take Back.

Real-Time Crime Center will benefit North Little Rock

Our city will be establishing a REAL TIME CRIME CENTER (RTCC) during 2024. What is a Real Time Crime Center and why is it important to our city? Crime isn't contained to one city any more. Many times a crime is committed in one city and the criminals move to another city to avoid detection. A RTCC will provide our city the ability to capitalize on a wide and expanding range of technologies for more efficient and effective policing. These efforts will allow law enforcement officers to respond quickly, even immediately, to crimes in progress or to those that recently occurred. The technologies now available allow law enforcement to respond to crimes with improved intelligence and with a proactive emphasis on officer, citizen, and community safety.

Our city currently has over 100 cameras in operation but are not monitored in real time. The city plans to increase the number of cameras and position a team to work inside the RTCC. Team members will listen to police and fire communications and observe dispatch logs and notes at the same time while monitoring cameras that are at various locations throughout our city. They will also have access to information from other cities. Information provided from inside the center will allow officers more up-to-date information as they arrive and respond to a call. Fire personnel responding to scenes such as fires and auto accidents will be better equipped with their response based on information obtained from the center as well. 

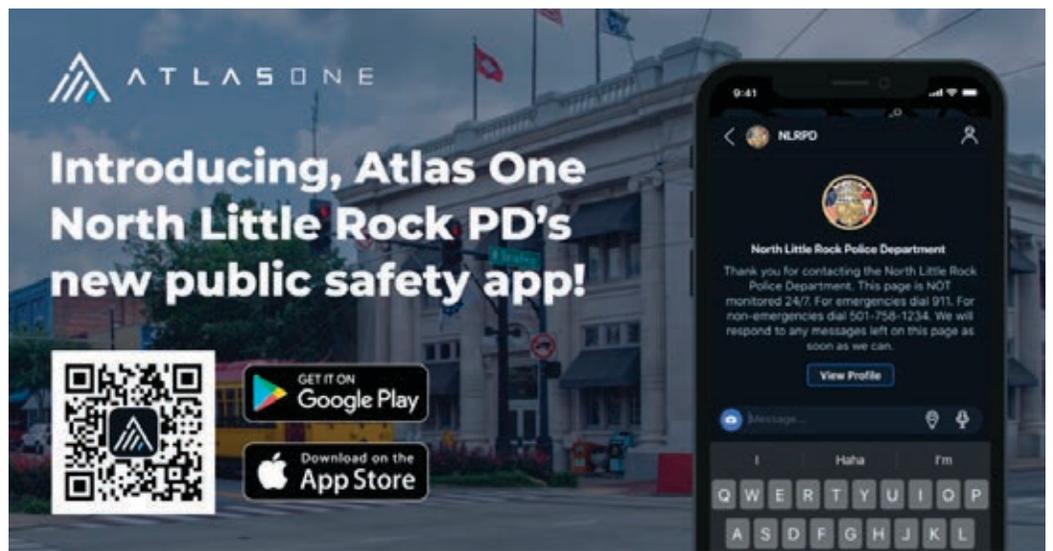


Brittany Chaperon, a 911 Dispatcher in Emergency Services for the City of North Little Rock was recently named Dispatcher of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Public Safety Communication Officials – National Emergency Number Association (APCO-NENA). This award is very prestigious as only one award a year is presented with the state of Arkansas. Brittany was selected for this award because of her dedication to her profession and her years of service. We are proud to have Brittany on our team in North Little Rock.



Jacob Mahan, Chief Signal Technician for the City of North Little Rock, (left) is pictured with Kenny Stephens, North Little Rock Director of Traffic, Safety and Parks. Jacob oversees and operates the city's camera detection system that utilizes artificial intelligence to gather traffic data in our city. The information gathered will prompt signals to change when pedestrians approach intersections and provides a vast amount of information regarding traffic patterns and usage. The information gathered is also used by police and fire in our city. The city of North Little Rock is exploring a fully solar powered signal system which will be the first in the country. A solar system will be safer and will not be affected if the city experiences a power outage.

The North Little Rock Police Department has joined Atlas One, a location-based public safety network to keep residents safe and informed. Residents can download the Atlas One App on their iOS or Android smartphone devices. The App allows North Little Rock Police to send geo-fenced push notification alerts when a public safety issue occurs nearby a user's current location, or places residents care about, such as their home, school, or office.



Alerts are interactive, and can include text, photos, videos, documents, and even voice recordings. In addition, residents will have one-stop-shop access to existing North Little Rock Police Department services and resources, such as our website, social media, and contact information. Users can also explore nearby incidents, events, places, and interactive guides. **Download the free iOS or Android Atlas One App.** NLRPD will also have the ability to publish incidents, events, places, and guides, and include interactive information such as directories, maps, news updates, links, and FAQ's.

NLR LIBRARIES

Fun for all ages



The North Little Rock Public Library System and the Central Arkansas Library teamed up for the Rock, Paper, Run 5K and Cool Down Party in September, celebrating National Library Card Sign Up Month. The collaboration featured "Bookworm Bargains," a library card discount program, with 64 businesses from North Little Rock, Little Rock, and surrounding areas participating. The 5K attracted 156 runners, and the Cool Down Party saw over 250 participants.



North Little Rock Public Library System offered an array of solar science and STEAM programs for kids leading up to the partial solar eclipse in October and the highly anticipated total eclipse in April 2024. These engaging programs are aimed to spark curiosity and excitement about celestial events among young minds. Astronomy Family Night was also held at Laman Library in October! Kids explored the cosmos under the inflatable planetarium from the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium and had the chance to add their names to the Europa Clipper, a mission bound for Jupiter's moon.



After years of exclusively offering passport processing services at the William F. Laman Public Library, the North Little Rock Public Library System is thrilled to announce that the Argenta Public Library location now provides passport services. Please note that the office closes one hour before the library's regular operating hours. To learn more, visit <https://nlrlibrary.org/communityresources/passports>.



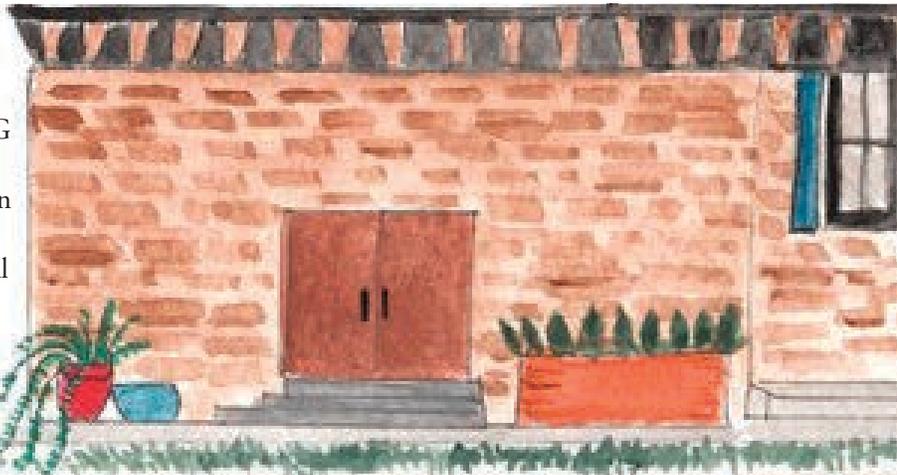
Halloween at the North Little Rock Public Library System was a spooktacular event, featuring children's performances, spooky magic by Paul Parter, and a Haunted Argenta Walk led by Kevin Newsom. Trick-or-treating both in Downtown Argenta and on our Mobile Library, the Rover, added to the festive spirit, making it a memorable Halloween celebration.



The City of North Little Rock Unsheltered Outreach Fair was a great opportunity for unsheltered individuals to attend and receive benefits and knowledge of the many organizations, resources, and services available within central Arkansas. This outreach fair continues to be a success because of selfless organizations like these donating their time, services, and resources to assist. During the 2023 City of North Little Rock Unsheltered Outreach Fair, 176 sleeping bags were given out, 145 vaccinations were administered, 56 individuals received haircuts, 36 showers were provided, and 50 Rock Region Metro day bus passes were provided. Multiple hygiene supplies, hand sanitizer, winter hats, winter jackets, and other clothing items were largely distributed. Over 38 organizations volunteered and were in attendance at the fair. 

BIG NEWS!

Seis Puentes will be moving into a NEW BUILDING in 2024! The new space located at 3207 MacArthur Drive in North Little Rock will be 80% larger so we can continue to serve, educate and empower our Hispanic community. Seis Puentes has served residents in Central Arkansas for the last 25 years. Visit seispuentes.org to learn more about Seis Puentes.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The North Little Rock Community Garden Program has been busy with the change of seasons! Team work is the name of our game! This fall we developed several partnerships in an effort to bolster local food production in our great city. Our program worked with the Department of Community Development to provide raised beds and plants to our new Habitat for Humanity neighbors, expanding our garden network one delivery at a time! We are also closely collaborating with members from ACTS Church and the Baring Cross Neighborhood Association (BCNA) to facilitate high-yield produce productions for the upcoming seasons at the Baring Cross Community Garden.



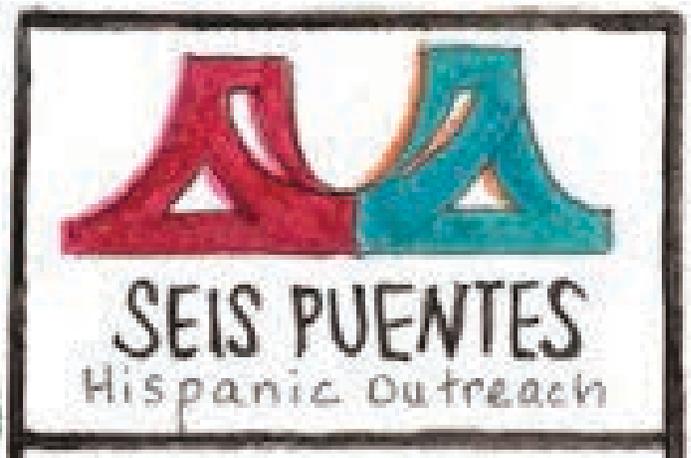
The majority of our gardens are chock-full with cold weather crops like spinach, kale, cabbage, sprouts, onions, garlic, collard greens and mustard greens. The hope is



High tunnel insulation at the St. Joseph Center Community Garden.

for a bountiful harvest right in time for Thanksgiving Day! Our program staff continues to assist our garden volunteers with seasonal transition. Whether it's winterizing irrigation systems, installing crop insulation or planting winter crops – we are here to help.

Our program is actively accepting Spring Funding applications through December 15. If you or your community are interested in starting or sustaining a community garden or urban farm within city limits -this opportunity is for you! The application can be found on our website. Questions? Please contact ASawyer@nlr.ar.gov and NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov. 



Leaf Removal

The North Little Rock Leaf Removal Crews are working diligently to remove all of the leaves in our city.



Please call 501-371-8340 for an update on the location of the leaf removal trucks or visit the City's Facebook page for updates.



North Little Rock Animal Services recently participated in the City's annual Firefest, Northern Lights and several other events in the city. Pictures from left to right: Julie Osborne, volunteer; Adam Tindall, Director of NLR Animal Services; Daniel Butler, NLR Firefighter; Pam Atkins, City employee; and LaDonna Henry, volunteer. If you are interested in adopting, please call the North Little Rock Animal Shelter at 501-791-8577 or email, animalservices@nlr.ar.gov. 



PHOTO BY REYNARDO MARKS

...IN OUR City

North Little Rock Tourism hosted its annual Northern Lights Holiday Festival at Argenta Plaza in November. An estimated 10,000 attendees enjoyed the holiday market, live music by The Big Dam Horns, photos with Black Santa Arkansas, storytime with North Little Rock Public Library on the streetcar, food trucks and kids' activities. The North Little Rock Fire Department, SWAT team and North Little Rock Animal Shelter were also on hand (lots of animals found homes for the holidays!).



Mayor Hartwick, city leaders, NLR Police Officers and NLR Firefighters participated in the NLR Rotary Club's 24th ANNUAL "I LIKE ME" book distribution to all kindergarten students in the NLR School District recently. A special thanks to Russ Kelso with the NLR Rotary Club for keeping this program going for the last 24 years in our city!



North Little Rock Tourism was proud to present the Piccolo Zoppé Winter Circus in North Little Rock last month. More than 3,000 attendees enjoyed experiencing the horses, dogs, aerial tricks, juggling, tight-rope walking and a myriad of other awe-inspiring acts. The Zoppé family have been enchanting audiences around the world since traveling the cobblestone roads of Italy in 1842. Their passion for performing their art and sharing their hearts with their audiences remains true. Piccolo Zoppé is an intimate, European style circus classic in its beauty. No audience member is more than 18 feet away from the ring. For more information visit piccolozoppe.com.

North Little Rock Contact Information

Mayor	Terry C. Hartwick	501-975-8601	mayer@nlr.ar.gov
City Clerk/Treasurer	Diane Whitbey	501-975-8617	cityclerkoffice@nlr.ar.gov
City Attorney	Amy Fields	501-975-3755	nlrlegal@nlr.ar.gov
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Judge (Criminal/Civil)	Judge Paula Juels Jones	501-791-8559	janet.hill@nlrpolice.org
Chief of Staff	Mike Davis	501-975-8601	mdavis@nlr.ar.gov
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Ward 1 Council Member	Debi Ross	501-753-0733	dross@nlr.ar.gov
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Ward 2 Council Member	Maurice Taylor	501-690-6444	mtaylor@nlr.ar.gov
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Volunteer Services	Angela Wirt	501-975-4297	awirt@nlr.ar.gov
Wastewater	Michael Clayton	501-945-7186	mclayton@nlrwu.com