

A CITY in A PARK



Little Rock Parks & Recreation

November 2015

Director's Message

November arrives and we set our clocks back. We put spooky decorations in storage until next year and plan holiday gatherings. Shopping lists are penned and firewood is stacked. Many traditions are carried on during the upcoming holiday season and I look forward to those each year. We are a blessed people. We are a blessed country. Most of us anticipate a meal of tasty turkey and pumpkin pie and it's easy to give thanks for the blessings we enjoy every day.

Family, health, freedom, jobs, nutritious foods, relationships...the list is long. What is on your "thankful list" this year? One thing I'm thankful for is a great parks and recreation team.

Our maintenance crew has begun their autumn and winter work orders preparing the parks for the cold months ahead. Our recreation staff is organizing indoor sports and activities. Our landscape division is already planting what will be beautiful flowers in the spring.

On behalf of our dedicated and talented staff, I say thank you to the people who enjoy our programs and parks. Your support truly encourages our vision of creating a City in A Park.

Truman Tolefree



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Mud Run

Another muddy morning...another fun day at the park. Two Rivers Park was filled with festive, dedicated, costumed runners as we held our annual Mud Run on October 24.

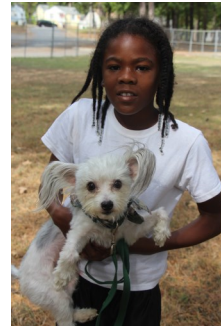


Congratulations to Little Rock Parks & Recreation Director Truman Tolefree on his reappointment to the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grants Advisory Committee by Governor Hutchinson!



Pop Up Dog Park @ Curran Conway Park Saturday, October 17

Dogs of all sizes and their owners met, mingled and played!



Fall Fishing Derby



Ottenheimer Park Pond was stocked and ready for our first Fall Fishing Derby on Saturday, October 3. More than 70 children came out to enjoy a morning of fishing and fun with the help of our Little Rock Parks and Recreation staff and volunteer Park Rangers. The Arkansas Game and Fish stocked the pond and each participant was greeted with a baited cane pole ready to cast! A picnic in the park was a great way to end the successful morning of prize-winning catches!



Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.

-E.P. Powell



Mark Your Calendar!

November 5:
REcTemberfest @
 Southwest Community
 Center

November 11:
VETERAN'S DAY
 (HOLIDAY)

November 14:
Youth Football Super Bowl @
 War Memorial Stadium

November 21:
USA Track & Field Junior
Olympic Cross Country
Championships @ Western
Hills

November 26:
THANKSGIVING

TEAMWORK IN ACTION:



Soon you'll see our Volunteer Park Rangers on bikes! Thanks to the LRPD for their donation of 11 bicycles and 2 Segways and to the Little Rock Marathon for 2 mountain bikes. The donations were delivered recently and will soon be painted and repaired and ready to roam!



ARPA Conference

The Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association annual conference took place last month in Hot Springs where two of our programs brought home awards!

Our Jr. Park Ranger Program was recognized as the "Natural Resources Program of the Year". The first of its kind at the city level, this program was created over the summer by the Volunteer Park Ranger Coordinator, Karen Sykes. Sykes says, "It's a great feeling to have my hard work recognized and I couldn't have done it without the support of Parks staff and our sponsor, Ozark Outdoor Supply."



ARPA Past President Steve Ibbotson with Karen Sykes

The mission of the program is to connect kids 9 to 12 years old to nature via our park system with the vision to create a safer and healthier park environment. Operating under the "Children's Bill of Rights", the program focuses on 10 issues that children should have including a safe park system to play in, the right to go fishing and planting a seed.

The program began this summer as a week-long day camp for three different groups. In September, 4th and 5th graders were invited to participate in a two-week after-school Junior Park Ranger Program. The kids visited 10 parks and facilities, learning about history, flora and fauna and conservation issues. They also picked up litter and played. Since the launch of the program, 40 children have graduated as Junior Park Rangers. As a graduate, each youngster receives an official badge, certificate and a backpack filled with ranger supplies and treats. Congratulations, Karen!



LRPR Staff: Lauren Clark, Jim Sick (retired), Leland Couch, Karen Sykes, Bill Craig and Sherrie Shinn. Not pictured Gil Standridge

Our Therapeutic Recreation's Adult Branch Out Program was honored as the "Therapeutic Recreation Program of the Year". This is the first time this program has received the award. The Branch Out Program stays busy with activities in the community throughout the year, often going out for lunch or museum visits. The group recently enjoyed a two night camping trip in Little Rock where they canoed, fished, hiked and enjoyed nature. They are also very active in community service. Their most recent volunteer project was painting a for Habitat for Humanity. Congratulations, Sherrie!



ARPA Past President Steve Ibbotson with Sherrie Shinn



Thanks to all who came out to "Balloon Glow & Mac-O-Lanterns...An Evening In the Park!" It was a gorgeous event!



Happy November Birthday to these staff members:



Richelene Irby-Harris-1
Ryan Grist-10
Thomas Zaloudek-19

Stephen Adkins-20
MacKenzie Page-28

The **HOLIDAYS** are almost here...we want you to *help* us feed our fellow Arkansans! Drop off non-perishable **food items** at The Centre at University from now until **December 14!**

NOTICE: Park restrooms and pavilions are winterized and will be closed until March 1.

*Unless pavilion rented via LRPR reservations desk.



Contact Us

Visit our offices at City Hall. We welcome your comments!

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Visit us on the web www.lrpr.org
www.facebook.com/lrparksrec

Twitter: @lrparksrec
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www.lrpr.org



Bike Better: Did you know the Arkansas law requires motorists to allow 3 feet of space on the left when passing cyclists.



Way to go, players and coaches, on another successful and very exciting volleyball season! The teams played at Stephens, Southwest and Dunbar Community Centers throughout the fall and the championship games were held Wednesday, October 28 at Dunbar.

Congratulations and great work to all!



Little Rock Parks & Recreation

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE