

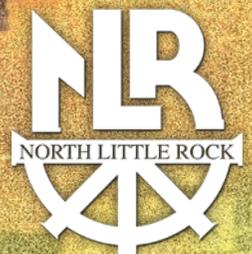
north
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rock

PROUD

Fall 2019, Vol. 02, No. 02.

A Publication of the North Little Rock Mayor's Office

INSIDE:
NORTHERN LIGHTS FESTIVAL
ARGENTA PLAZA
2020 CENSUS NLR
FORD NEXT GENERATION LEARNING
PERFECTLY PARK HILL



NLR PROUD Features

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 Park Hill encompasses over 1600 acres and is the city’s first planned suburban development. Come and read what makes this neighborhood special.

6 The Northern Lights Festival
 Celebrate the holiday season with Northern Lights Festival at the new Argenta Plaza and enjoy the annual Christmas parade. The best place in Arkansas to kick off the holiday season is in North Little Rock.

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On the Cover— Burns Park's Covered Bridge.

Art by Jim Billings.



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north little rock **PROUD**

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Historic Park Hill Neighborhood Association



Justin Matthews is not just a street in town. For those that don't know, the local businessman was instrumental in the early development of what is now North Little Rock. In 1921, Matthews had a vision of a residential area overlooking the incorporated part of North Little Rock (Argenta), the Arkansas River and Little Rock. The visionary businessman acquired a large tract of heavily wooded property atop a steep hill about a mile north of the city limits. In early 1922 Matthews announced the opening of the residential subdivision which he named "Park Hill."

Starting in 1921 with 200 wooded acres, the Park Hill area now encompasses over 1600 acres and is the city's first planned suburban development. Sandra Taylor Smith has an excellent in-depth history of Park Hill on the city's website, NLR.AR.Gov. But what is Park Hill today? Today historic Park Hill is a thriving, diverse neighborhood that has an active community group. Hosting events like the Tour de Bark, the St. Patrick's Day Color Run, neighborhood meet and greets, and the Park Hill Business & Merchant Association's Patio on Park Hill keeps the association busy. They want the community to be welcoming to all of North Little Rock and for everyone to enjoy the historical area known to them as "Perfectly Park Hill."

Park Hill has four neighborhood parks, two community gardens and a

Master Gardener project at the Park Hill Water complex. The residents are happy to share their favorite aspect of living in Park Hill. Park Hill resident Amy Hopper said, "It has been so exciting to see my millennial friends buying homes in Park Hill. Our neighborhood offers homes with character at an affordable price, which is attractive to young, first-time homebuyers. I enjoy riding my bike through the safe, nicely-shaded streets of Park Hill, and learning about the neighborhood's rich history from my neighbors." A wide range of age groups comes together often at events or just walking the neighborhood. Promoting neighborhood unity and safety is a big key for the association. "Knowing and interacting with your neighbors is a key to safety. Friends watch out for friends," says Neighborhood Services Director and Park Hill resident Dan Scott. "You can find a broad spectrum of housing in Park Hill, from your starter homes to your home for life!" says Scott.

"We are always interested in the historic parts of Park Hill, but we are keeping an eye towards the future. Anything that comes to Park Hill we want it to keep the community



closeness feel to it. We like a little of the old, mixed with the new." Says Park Hill Neighborhood Association President John Gegan. According to Mr. Gegan, the association is working hard with the business and merchant's association and Jump Start Park Hill to plan the new streetscape project that will start next year.

As their Facebook page states, "We are a group of neighbors working to encourage a sense of community, promote safety, protect neighborhood parks, and support the commercial district within Park Hill. The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Idlewild Park in North Little Rock. Everyone is welcome to attend. 



NLRPROUD

Projects Update

North Little Rock Justice Center

Scheduled to begin January 2020 completion date of June 2021



Thanks to the one cent sales tax the city is continuing the NLR PROUD resurfacing program. Below are the lists of streets that the City Engineers and Council members selected for each Ward. These Projects will be completed in early 2020 and another round of streets will be added for 2020. 🇺🇸

Streets and Drainage

Ward 1

- ◆ Waterside, from North Hills to Idlewild
- ◆ Idlewild, from Goshen to H
- ◆ East D, from JFK to Cedar
- ◆ West 33rd, from 33rd Place to Sycamore
- ◆ 44th, from Camp Robinson to Maple
- ◆ Curtis Sykes, from Main to 110' East of N. Olive
- ◆ Richards, from McCain to 500' beyond Stockton
- ◆ Walnut, from 13th to 14th
- ◆ Randolph, from McCain to Fairway
- ◆ Chandler, from 46th to 47th

Ward 2

- ◆ West 4th, from Broadway to Main
- ◆ North Broadway, from Willow to West 4th
- ◆ West 7th, from Main to Willow
- ◆ East Washington, from Locust to Riverfront
- ◆ East 4th, from Poplar to Main
- ◆ East 4th, from Magnolia to Olive
- ◆ Riverfront, from Riverfront Drive to N. Main St Bridge
- ◆ Maple, from Broadway to Riverfront

Ward 3

- ◆ West Military, from MacArthur to west edge of Joe K Poch
- ◆ Landski, from MacArthur to Parkway
- ◆ White Oak Crossing, from Commerce Cove to Rich Smith Lane
- ◆ Foxboro, from Nicole to Green Valley
- ◆ Scenic, from W. Pershing to JD Ashley Lane

Ward 4

- ◆ Crestwood (Concrete), from North Hills to Fairway
- ◆ Somers, from Dawson to Warden
- ◆ North Locust (ACHM Portion), from Allwood to 57th
- ◆ Westfield, from Greenbank to Meadowbrook
- ◆ Meadowbrook, from Westfield to Tanglewood

NLRPROUD

NLR PROUD FIRE STATION UPDATES

Over the next five years every one of our 11 fire stations will receive repair or remodel work with \$10 million in funding from the voter approved NLR PROUD Projects.

2020 projects:

Station 1- Central Fire Station

Station 3-Baring Cross

Station 9-Indian Hills

2019 Projects:

Station 2-Rose City, East Broadway

- Remove all carpet and replace with Luxury Vinyl Tile
- Remove cracked engine room covering, grind and polish the floor after removal
- Remove and replace ceiling grid
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Repaint the engine room
- Clean and service HVAC system (replacing the grilles and fix vent exhausts)
- Replace lighting in engine room with LED lights
- New roof (all roofs)

Station 4 WNLR/Maumelle Blvd (In progress)

- Repairing all of the downspouts and underground drainage pipes
- Replace all rotting or decayed wood at the back of the station
- Fix the roof penetrations and leaks
- Repair the gutter system
- Repair the awning downstairs
- Repair the concrete out in front of the apparatus bay
- Replace the dryvit and stucco damage and re-paint
- Repaint interior office

Station 5 Park Hill

- We are in the process of finalizing the contract to replace the roof.



Station 6-Levy/Camp Robison

- Plans have been completed for the new station at 3919 Pike.
- Construction to begin late 2019



Station 7-Lakewood/McCain

- Completed and reopened Spring of 2019



Station 8-Amboy/MacArthur

- Site selected for new station, plans in the design stage

Station 10-I-440/Hwy 70

- New Roof
- Kitchen remodel
- Bathroom remodel
- Carpet removal
- New blinds/flexshade
- New AC units
- Repair concrete
- Repair cracked glass
- New ceiling tile
- New turn-out lockers
- New lighting package throughout the station
- Install garbage disposal

Station 11 (In Progress)

- (Some things have already been repaired)
- Add drainage to the engine room
- Repair and extend porch to connect to the engine room
- New radio cabinet
- New phones
- New sewer line to replace the septic system
- New AC Unit 

North Little Rock kicks off holiday season with Northern Lights Festival Plaza Grand Opening

The City of North Little Rock, North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau, North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Argenta Downtown Council and Argenta Community Theater will host the annual Northern Lights Festival on Saturday, November 30, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the Argenta Plaza at 510 Main Street.

“Families and friends are going to have plenty of options for spending time together over Thanksgiving weekend in North Little Rock,” said Stephanie Slagle, Marketing Director for the North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Shop Black Friday deals in the McCain shopping district, celebrate the holiday season with Northern Lights Festival on Saturday and attend our annual Christmas parade on Sunday. There’ll be no better place in Arkansas to kick off the holiday season than North Little Rock.”

Northern Lights Festival will be free and open to the public. The schedule is as follows:

- 5:30 p.m. – Grand Opening Ceremony of Argenta Plaza
- 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 7:00 p.m. – Big Dam Horns Concert
- 9:00 p.m. – Fireworks Show

One of the highlights of the evening will be the lighting of North Little Rock’s new tree, which is one of the tallest in the state at 38 feet tall with a four-foot star. There will also be horse carriage rides, holiday market, kids’ zone with activities like making Christmas cards for veterans, food trucks and libations for purchase, a Rock Region METRO streetcar decorated for the holidays, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and actors from Argenta Community Theater’s *A Christmas Carol* in period costume.

The festival will be the first major event to be held in Argenta Plaza, a



\$5.36-million community space owned by the City of North Little Rock that will be managed by the North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau. The plaza features a “front porch” area with modern swings; a stage with 40-foot video projection wall; a water wall; fountains and a “backyard” area with trees. Except for the backyard area, where the new First Orion headquarters is being completed, all will be open for the November 30 event.

“Argenta Plaza belongs to everyone in North Little Rock,” said North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith. “Our Northern Lights Festival is a perfect opportunity for all neighborhoods to come together and celebrate the holiday season as one community.”

The festival will signal the start of the North Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau’s responsibility for

programming and booking events in Argenta Plaza. Erica Goss, Sales Manager for the North Little Rock CVB, will be the point person for coordinating public and private events and is already working on 2020 programming.

“Our hope is that the community comes out, embraces the venue as a beautiful place to relax with colleagues, friends and family, but also sees its potential for reunions, weddings and corporate events,” Goss said. “Our job will be maintaining a balance of programming events and activities that the public can enjoy – live music, movie nights or festivals – and also working with individuals and groups that want to use the space for private events.”

For more information about the 2019 Northern Lights Festival join the Facebook event (“NLR Northern



Lights Festival 2019”) or visit www.NorthLittleRock.org. For plaza rental information, contact Erica at erica@northlittlerock.org.

The annual North Little Rock Sertoma Christmas Parade, always free and open to the public, will be the day after the festival (Sunday, December 1) at 2:00 p.m. on Main Street. Entries are still being accepted for the parade by emailing Sherry Bruno at nlrchristmasparade@gmail.com. Join and share the Facebook event (“North Little Rock Sertoma Christmas Parade 2019”) for parade updates. For more information, contact Stephanie Slagle sslagle@northlittlerock.org 



Census 2020 is right around the corner.



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United States
**Census
2020**

3279SP

The 2020 Census is right around the corner. Let's get ready North Little Rock to have a COMPLETE COUNT, which means big money for our city. The U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) mandates that a headcount be every ten years. The count includes people of all ages, races, citizens, and non-citizens.

The first Census was in 1790 and is retaken every ten years. However, the 2020 census will be the first time that citizens can respond online, by phone, or the traditional way through the mail.

More than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state, and local governments. Therefore a COMPLETE COUNT is critical.

All of the information collected by the Census Bureau must remain confidential, protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Under this Code, all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data. It is a felony for any employee to disclose any confidential census information.

Our city's Complete Count Committee (CCC) continues to work extremely hard to bring awareness of the importance of the Census in 2020 to our citizens. A sample of what the Census Bureau will be mailing out in mid-March is on the city's website (nlr.ar.gov/news/2020_census). In addition to the sample form, there is a short video about the 2020 Census. We all count and need to be counted. So let's all take ownership of this and do our part to make 2020 Census a COMPLETE COUNT in our city of North Little Rock.

If you would like a job working for the U.S. Census Bureau, there is a link on our website at 2020census.gov/en/jobs. For more information, contact Steve Shields sshields@nlr.ar.gov 

**Join the 2020 Census Team!
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2020census.gov/jobs

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(1-855-562-2020)**

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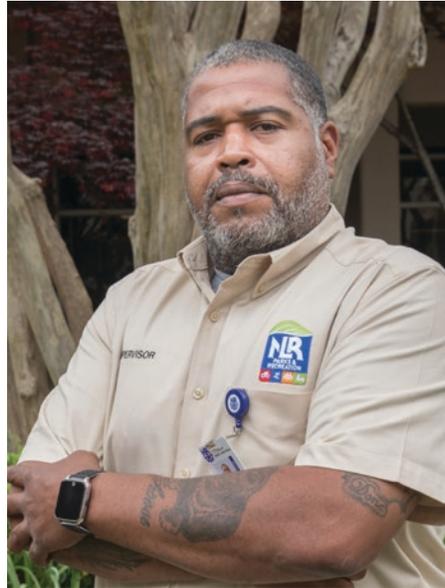
Apply Online!

Get to know your NLR Employees

Patrick Isbell, Park and Recreation General Supervisor

North Little Rock has one of the most extensive parks systems for a city its size anywhere in the country. Everyone knows about Burns Park, but did you know that North Little Rock also has 35 neighborhood parks? Someone has to be responsible for the upkeep of those parks. For Parks and Recreation Department Director Terry Hartwick, that man is Patrick Isbell. Starting with Parks in 1999, Patrick has worked his way up from maintenance to equipment operator Level 1 to crew leader to General Supervisor. At every stop, he has been a great asset to his team. Now he leads the team that keeps North Little Rock beautiful. The Old Mill is one of the most well know and attractive assets of the Parks Department, but to Patrick it's not the most important. "I believe in keeping

each one of the parks beautiful. My team gives the same care to Conley Park as we do to the Old Mill." Says



Isbell. The pride taken by his crew is evident everywhere you look in North Little Rock. It's amazing how much they take care of with a 15 man crew. "That's because of Patrick's leadership," states Hartwick, "He's my "get it done" guy! They even take the time to keep their shop impeccably clean."

Patrick is a lifelong North Little Rock guy. He's a 1992 graduate of North Little Rock High School and a proud dad of two grown boys. It's that great North Little Rock pride that drives Patrick to succeed. He loves the city and loves his job. "My favorite part of working for the city is how family oriented all the departments are, It wasn't always that way. But we work together to make North Little Rock the best it can be."—Patrick Isbell 

Captain Wesley Stephens, North Little Rock Fire Department

Not all superheroes are on the big screen, some of them live among us. The men and women that make up our first responder crews are the real North Little Rock superheroes. One such first responder is Captain Wesley Stephens of the North Little Rock Fire Department. Captain Stephens (or Captain America as some call him) joined the NLRFD sort of by chance in 2002. He was actually looking to join the NLRPD when he picked up an application. On the left, NLRPD's application and on the right, NLRFD. Something led him to pick the one on the right, and the rest is history. In April of 2007 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 2011 earned the rank of Captain. He is assigned to Rescue One which runs out of Central Fire Station. Rescue One is our heavy rescue which is responsible for swift water rescue, high angle rescue, collapse rescue, trench rescue, river rescue, and vehicle extrication. "Captain Stephens



"Wesley can be counted on to take on any and all new assignments and projects and does so with a positive attitude" Chief Tucker

is the go-to guy on the job if you need any special operations training," says NLRFD Chief Gerald Tucker.

Captain Stephens came up with the curriculum for the core rescue class that was adopted by the Arkansas Fire Academy and is taught statewide. He

is the primary instructor for swift water technician, collapse and rope rescue for C-Crew. With over 30 water rescues and 6 rope rescues, Captain Stephens has demonstrated the ability to lead and teach urban search and rescue to agencies around the state.

Captain Stephens is a hero of another kind as well. To his wife of 17 years, Katie and their four children, he is their at home hero. In his

spare time, they enjoy camping, kayaking, basketball, and anything outdoors with friends and family. All his kids are active in sports which keep Wesley and Katie running!

When joking with him about being Captain America, When asked where he hid his shield, Captain Stephens responded, "The shield is the crew that surrounds you. We all protect each other." 

Ford Next Generation Learning



On January 11th, 2019 the Little Rock Regional Chamber, in a historic partnership with the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District, Little Rock School District, North Little Rock School District and the Pulaski County Special School District, announced the launch of an exploratory study into Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL), the education initiative of the Ford Motor Company Fund.

“The partnership with Ford NGL, the Little Rock Regional Chamber, and our colleagues in LRSD, NLRSD, and PCSSD will transform opportunities for our scholars in the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District and all of Pulaski County. Further, this endeavor represents the commitment of multiple organizations to enhance career and college opportunities for all scholars in Pulaski County. JNPSD looks forward to the partnership and continued progress with Ford NGL.”

– Dr. Bryan Duffie, superintendent of the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District

NGL represents an inclusive, comprehensive community initiative that brings together educators, employers, and community leaders to implement a proven model for transforming secondary schools, which ultimately improves the regional workforce development system.

The results of that report were released May 1, 2019 and include a conclusion that the four Pulaski County public school districts, along with community and business partners, are in a strong position to undertake this transformation to improve student outcomes for all students in the districts.

According to the report, “Based on our research, observations, and analysis, we believe Pulaski County districts are at a unique juncture and on the verge of community-connected education transformation. The local and regional workforce presents various high-wage, high-skill opportunities for students. Community leaders, educators (secondary and post-secondary), and employers in Pulaski County are interested in transformation and see this moment in time as the stars aligning for the change that this community needs.”

“Our goal is to help students to become successful, productive adults by any means possible. We appreciate the representatives from Ford NGL who came into our school to gather good information that can be used to better prepare our students for careers.”

– Bobby Acklin, superintendent of the North Little Rock School District.

The report, which was underwritten by Entergy Arkansas, was informed by data collected over a four day visit by the NGL team to the community. They held meetings with school leaders, teachers, parents, students and alumni from all the high schools; district and state education officials; school and community advisory board presidents; teachers association representatives; leaders from UA Pulaski Tech; state legislators; chambers of commerce; and business and community leaders.

The study also outlines an inclusive community planning process for the districts to follow should they choose to move forward with this initiative. These include community visioning sessions and a representative

“We look forward to working with our colleagues in the other public school districts of Pulaski County as we engage in Phase II of NGL. We’re also excited about the continued substantial engagement of the business community and their efforts to provide our young people viable and empowering educational experiences.”

– Dr. Charles McNulty, superintendent of the Pulaski County Special School District

master planning committee of over one hundred business and community members who would, in partnership with teachers and district officials, help write a master plan to guide the transformation efforts of the individual districts.

Over the next few months, representatives from each of the four districts will begin working through the process of identifying if and how they elect to proceed with the report’s recommended path forward.

“I am really excited about the prospect of moving forward with the Ford NGL solutions. It is critical for all the Pulaski County districts to come together to better prepare and support our students. This model will deliver real, relevant learning that will create a win for students, parents, educators, and the business community.”

– Mike Poore, superintendent of the Little Rock School District

For more information contact Robert Birch at Rbirch@nlr.ar.gov or read more at www.nlr.ar.gov/economicdevelopment



**FORD
NEXT GENERATION
LEARNING**
Community Connected Learning



USS Hoga YT-146

USS *Hoga* (YT-146) is best known for her actions during the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. Getting underway within 10 minutes after the first Japanese bombs fell, she went to work rescuing sailors in the water, fighting fires, and pulling ships out of harm's way. *Hoga* pulled the repair ship USS *Vestal* away from USS *Arizona*'s burning hull, assisted the damaged minesweeper USS *Oglala* and the battleship USS *Nevada*. She fought fires on the *Nevada* as well as the battleships USS *Maryland*, USS *Tennessee*, and USS *Arizona*. In all, *Hoga* spent 72 straight hours fighting fires. *Hoga* is most recognized for pushing the sinking USS *Nevada* to safety and preventing her from blocking the narrow channel.

For her work, *Hoga*, her commanding officer, and his crew received a commendation from ADM Chester A. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

World War II Service

Following the attack, *Hoga* was pressed into additional duty clearing debris and assisting with salvage efforts on the many sunken and damaged vessels. She also continued her primary duty of helping vessels into and out of their berths.

Post War Service

In June 1948, *Hoga* was loaned to the City of Oakland, California, for service as a fireboat. *Hoga* remained in loan status for nearly five decades, serving as the *City of Oakland*. She received modifications to increase

her fire-fighting capability. On July 3, 1980, *City of Oakland* served as a tour boat for President Jimmy Carter during a 35-minute tour of the Port of Oakland. She received National Landmark Status from the National Park Service on June 30, 1989, for her efforts on December 7, 1941, while still serving as the fireboat *City of Oakland*. In 1994, the City of Oakland returned *Hoga* to the Navy. She was transferred to the Maritime Administration for storage.

Post Decommissioning

On July 28, 2005, the United States Navy officially transferred USS *Hoga* to the City of North Little Rock. On November 23, 2015, *Hoga* arrived at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum in North Little Rock, Arkansas. 

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United States
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2020**

The 2020 Census is right around the corner, and North Little Rock wants everyone to count. Check out this two minute video on our website nlr.ar.gov. Also if you are interested in working for the U.S. Census Bureau, check out that information as well.



Burns Park – View our video about NLR's amazing Back Yard. Learn about all the fun things to do in the best municipal park in the state!

North Little Rock Contact Information

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