



NLR Neighborhood News

APRIL 1
#WECOUNT2020



The Census Is Coming!

How important is the Census that will be conducted on April first this year? The Census is required by the Constitution of the United States. In fact, it is listed in first Article of the Constitution. To put it in perspective, freedom of speech, the right to carry arms, our freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, and the right to trial by jury are not listed in the Constitution until the amendments. That is how important the founding fathers thought the Census would be! And unlike previous counts in other countries, our Census was designed to ensure equal representation instead of being a taxing mechanism.

The Census is conducted every ten years as required by the Constitution and ensures that representation in the House of Representatives is equal. It is also used to allocate federal and state programs. It is used to adjust local city council districts to ensure equal representation. Companies use the information when looking to expand to new locations. In fact, there are few aspects of our lives that are not touched by the results of the Census.

What will the Census ask? It will ask the number of people living or staying in your home on April 1, 2020. Are there any additional people there you did not include in the first question? Do you live in a house, an apartment, or a mobile home?

What is your telephone number? And you will be asked your name, sex, age, and birth date. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin? And finally it will ask what your race is. For each person living with you, it will ask if they usually stay somewhere else, how they are related to you, and then for their name, sex, age, birth date, origin, and race. A copy of the questionnaire can be found on the City's website at NLR.Ar.Gov under the heading "2020 Census". You can fill out the census online, on the phone, or mail in a paper copy. You should receive your census information in mid-March.

Your results are private for seventy-two years. It is a federal crime for personal Census data to be released to anyone, including law enforcement agencies. Generalized totals can be released as statistics but nothing that can be used to identify specific people or families. Your answers are private.

It is estimated that every person who does not fill out the Census and is not counted costs Arkansas more than \$3000 in federal and state funding. These are programs that repair streets, feed hungry seniors, help with education, etc. Other than voting in the 2020 election, probably nothing you do in 2020 will have a bigger impact on our city, county, and state than filling out the Census. And that impact will last for ten years.

Going into 2020, we decided it was time to dust off this article from 2012.

Giving Residents The Information And The Opportunity To Intelligently Choose Political Leaders.

Charles Pickering said, “A healthy democracy requires a decent society: it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful.”



This is an election year and only between 50 and 55 percent of the voting-age population will go to the polls (As opposed to non-presidential election years with turnouts of about 3%). Since political candidates are looking for voters, our neighborhood groups can expect to hear from candidates running for election at all levels of government.

Between regular neighborhood meetings, blogs, Facebook and Twitter pages, neighborhood groups can play a key role in helping residents make reasonable choices. Neighborhood associations allow political candidates access to groups of active individuals. They also allow those active individuals the opportunity to interact with potential office holders.

2020 City Holiday Schedule

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 20 -
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17 - George Washington/
Daisy Gaston Bates Day

May 25 - Memorial Day

July 3 - Independence Day

September 7 - Labor Day

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25 - Christmas

Here are a few things to keep in mind as a neighborhood association.

Some advice if you will . . .

1. Do not endorse a particular candidate. If your group is a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization, it is prohibited from engaging in partisan politics. If your group is not a nonprofit, it is still probably wise not to endorse a candidate as a neighborhood association because you will have to work with whichever candidate wins. Individually, support whomever you would like, but the association should remain open.

2. Give candidates the opportunity to speak to your group in your meetings. It is critically important that your members have the opportunity to hear and interact with all candidates for political office.

3. Keep the interaction between candidates and meeting-goers civil. And limit it to a specific amount of time. Tell candidates before they begin how much time they will have and let everyone know how much question and answer time will be available. Do not let any one individual monopolize the time with a candidate. Give others the opportunity for interaction.

4. You are responsible for the content on your group's websites and social media sites. If you allow comments or postings, you are also responsible for what others put on your site. Check your sites regularly and ensure that inaccurate, inflammatory, or uncivil comments are removed.

If the tone of your neighborhood association meetings this year can be described as honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful when dealing with political issues and candidates for political offices, your group will go a long way towards giving your residents the information and the opportunity to intelligently choose political leaders.



Congratulations To The Winners Of The Mini-Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

**First Place - Rose City
Neighborhood Association**



**Second Place - Park Hill
Neighborhood Association**



**Third Place - Military Heights
Outreach Association**



The North Little Rock History held their 2nd Annual Mini-Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. The contest was open to all North Little Rock neighborhoods. Five neighborhoods took up the challenge, Rose City, Park Hill, Military Heights, Amboy and Sherman Park.

Trees were provided free of charge by the NLR History Commission. All decorations had to hang on the tree. Tree skirts were allowed. Flocking, tinsel, and glitter were not allowed. Any lights used were required to be LED battery operated lights. All decorations were to be provided by each participating neighborhood. Entrants had from October 1 until November 26 to complete and submit their entries.

This year's theme was "Candy Canes and Gingerbread". The entries were judged during open house at the North Little Rock Heritage Center. If your neighborhood did not participate this year, start making plans now to participate next year. First prize was \$100.00, second prize was \$75.00 and third prize was \$50.00.

Scam Alert!



Scammers have started using fear as a motivating factor in separating you from your money. Recent scams include saying they are from a utility company and demanding immediate payment or the service will be cut off, that your Social Security Number has been used in crimes and you will be arrested, that your computer has picked up a virus and only they can fix the problem, that you missed jury duty and a warrant has been issued for your arrest, or the IRS will come arrest you unless you send money immediately. Another scam is having a young person call and say they are a grandchild and are in jail and need you to bail them out. The most recent scam is to receive a call or notification that your debit card has been locked. You are given a 1-800 number to call to unlock it, requesting your personal banking information.

Be careful and don't let anyone scare you into giving your hard-earned money to a thief on the other end of a phone line.



Questions? Contact the Following

All dates are evening meetings unless otherwise noted.

Amboy Crime Watch
1st Thursday, 6:00
Bimonthly - months of
Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.
Amboy Methodist, 311 Military
Mary Ann Conley 758-1208

Amboy Neighborhood Assn.
Every 3rd Monday, 6:30
Burns Park Hospitality House
Military Drive & Joe Poch Rd.
Angelica Barnard, (501) 297-8720
abarnard0321@gmail.com

Argenta Neighborhood Boosters
Every 3rd Thursday, 6:00
NLR Heritage Center
506 Main Street
Katie Gleason, (501) 773-6189

Baring Cross Neighborhood Assn.
Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
ACTS Church
13th & Franklin Sts.
Harlan Hunter, 541-1591

Dark Hollow Community
Development Corporation
Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:30
1400 Pine Street
Belinda Burney, 376-8144

Dixie Addition Community
Development Corporation
Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
914 "H" Street
Lee A. (Buck) Jeffrey, 240-5376
buckj@att.net

Glenview Neighborhood Assn.
Every 1st Tuesday, 7:00
Glenview Rec. Ctr
4800 E 19th St.
Lee Brewer, 945-7695

HOLT Neighborhood Assn.
3rd Monday, 6:30 in --
March, June, August & November
Gardner Memorial United Methodist
Joy Cameron, 374-9520

Indian Hills Neighborhood
Association/Crime Watch
Stephen Whiting, 425-1942

Keep North Little Rock Beautiful
Every 2nd Monday, 6:00
Rockwater Marina Clubhouse
Randy Naylor, 350-8775 or
Lisa Smith, 791-2568;
KNLRB@aol.com
or www.Facebook.com/KNLRB

Lakewood Community Watch
Tap Pace, 416-0747

Meadow Park Neighborhood Assn.
Every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00
Bethany Baptist Church
308 Eureka Gardens Road
Michael Davis, 508-1108

Melrose Outreach
Every 3rd Wednesday, 7:00
Melrose Grocery, 807 Willow St.
Phone: 372-3810 or 374-7842

Military Heights Outreach Assn.
Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30
North Little Rock Community Center

NAACP
Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00
Bethel AME Church
600 Cedar Street
Deborah Rhodes, Ph: 351-9558

Neighbors United for Levy
Every 1st Monday, 6:30
North Heights Recreation Center
4801 Allen
Doug McDowall, 758-1668

North Little Rock Landlords Assn
Every 3rd Monday, 7:00
NLR Community Center
2700 Willow St.
Gail Blucker, 835-6679

Park Hill Neighborhood
1st Tuesday, Odd months only, 6:00
Idlewild Park Historic Building
Corner of D, No. Cedar & Plainview
John Gregan, 758-7159
johngregan@att.net

Ridge Road Village Neighborhood Watch
Every 4th Thursday, 5:00
4748 Ridge Road, Phone : 771-7500

Rose City Neighborhood Assn.
Every 3rd Monday, 7:00
Rose City Police Substation
Broadway & Lynch Drive
Ken Abel, 791-8500, lv message
Nlrrosecityneighborhood@gmail.com

Scenic Hill Neighborhood Assn.
2nd Thursday, 7:00 in
January, March, June & September
Randy Naylor, 350-8775

Sertoma Club of NLR
Every Wednesday, 12:00 noon
Newk's on Warden Road

Sherman Park Neighborhood
Every 3rd Monday, 6:00
8th St. Baptist Church
Corner of Hickory & SA Jones Sts.
Artis Boykin, 372-7490

Stone Links Neighborhood Assn.
Every 3rd Tuesday, 6:00
Stone Links Golf Course Clubhouse
Cedric Vaughn, 479-799-2347

Willow Beach Neighborhood Assn
2nd Tuesday in March & October,
6:30 Church at Willow Beach
John Santoro, 607-1755

**City of North Little Rock
City Hall 300 Main Street**

Elected Officials

Mayor Joe Smith 975-8601
City Clerk, Diane Whitbey 975-8617
City Attorney, Amy Fields 975-3755

Council Members

Ward 1

Debi Ross 753-0733
Beth White 758-2738

Ward 2

Linda Robinson 945-8820
Maurice Taylor 690-6444

Ward 3

Steve Baxter 804-0928
Ron Harris 758-2877

Ward 4

Charlie Hight 944-0670
Jane Ginn 749-5344

NLR Neighborhood News

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Office Hours-
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Comments? We would like to hear from you. If you have neighborhood meetings or activities to be placed in the newsletter, please mail, fax, email or call the information to us. Are you reading someone else's copy? If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, contact our office.

North Little Rock Neighborhood News is a bi-monthly publication. Please note the following deadlines for information to be published:

| Issue | Deadline Date |
|-------------------|---------------|
| March/April | February 1 |
| May/June | April 1 |
| July/August | June 1 |
| September/October | August 1 |
| November/December | October 1 |

**Census 2020
YOU Count!
Complete your
2020 Census form
and be counted!**



**2020
Recycling Weeks**

- January 5 & 19
- February 2 & 16
- March 1, 15 & 29
- April 12 & 26
- May 10 & 24
- June 7 & 21
- July 5 & 19
- August 2, 16 & 30
- September 13 & 27
- October 11 & 25
- November 8 & 22
- December 6 & 20

Put your bins to the curb by 7:00 a.m. the day of your regular household garbage pick up. Put them away by 8:00 a.m. the next day.

Recycling Questions?
Call Waste Management
at (501) 565-0191.

**North Little Rock
City Meetings**

Thomas Cemetery Committee
1st Monday, 6:15 pm
Levy Baptist Church, 3501 Pike Ave.

NLR Airport Commission
3rd Thursday, 12:00 pm
120 Main Street, Room A
City Services Building

City Council Meetings
2nd & 4th Monday, 6:00 p.m.
NLR City Hall, 300 Main Street

Planning Commission
Sign Board
2nd Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
120 Main St., 2nd floor, west end

Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday, 4:45 pm/300 Main St.

History Commission
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm/506 Main St.

Historic District Commission
2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
506 Main St.

Parks & Recreation
Commission
3rd Monday, 5:00 pm
2700 Willow St.

City Beautiful Commission
3rd Monday, 2:00 p.m.
3427 North Magnolia Street

Senior Citizen Commission
Every 4th Monday, 3:00 p.m.
401 West Pershing

Planning Commission
Board of Adjustment & Appeal
Last Thursday of each month,
1:30 p.m.
120 Main St., 2nd floor, west end

NUSA 2020

Neighborhoods USA Is Coming!

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is a national, non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

NUSA's organizational mission is to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and to promote productive communications and collaborations among those associations with both the public and private sectors. For the past forty-four years, the organization has served these broad principles through its annual conference by providing an opportunity for people from all locations, sectors and levels of society to discuss the pressing issues of the times, share experiences and offer assistance, motivation and encouragement.

The 45th Annual NUSA conference will be held at the Little Rock Marriott and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, AR, on May 20-23, 2020. This year's theme is "Neighborhoods: The Fabric of Our Communities."

Topic Streams will be:

1. Crime, Safety and Security
2. Beautification/Urban Revitalization
3. Restoring Lifestyles: Health/Drugs, Homelessness, Re-entry, Senior Citizen Transition
4. Neighborhood Enhancement and Technology/Working with City Government
5. Building Unity Through Neighborhood Partners: Value of Neighborhood Resource Centers/ Neighborhood Watches/Schools (Public, Charter and Private)
6. Working with the Immigrant Community
7. Youth
8. NUSA

More information will be provided in our March/April publication.

Please notify Neighborhood Services of any address change. Bulk rate mail will not be forwarded.



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