



View from the Rock

Volume 2, Issue 9 – December 2003
A publication by and for City of Little Rock employees

LR VOTERS APPROVE BOND PACKAGE

Record Turnout for Special Election As Voters Overwhelmingly Endorse All Nine Items

Little Rock voters ensured that the progress can continue as over 17,000 turned out on November 4 for the special Bond election. The voters overwhelmingly approved all nine issues on the ballot amounting to a package with over \$69 million in capital improvements.

With the approval of the bonds, the City will continue to collect 3.3 mills on property tax. This method of financing for projects has been in use since November 1958 when voters first approved a capital bond package.

Work on these projects will begin after the first of the year as soon as the money is collected from the sale of the bonds. Work must be substantially completed within three years.

Using the theme “Continue the Progress,” the campaign stressed the past projects that had been funded by bonds. The committee was co-chaired by all eleven members of the City Board of Directors.

The unanimous support of the City Directors was mirrored by the near unanimous support by civic groups. Over thirty civic organizations including neighborhood associations, unions, commissions, and business organizations formally endorsed the Bond package.

This broad base of support also was evident at the polls. The bond package won in all seven wards of the city. Past bond packages have been stronger in certain areas of the city and weaker in other areas.

Mayor Jim Dailey and the City Directors were excited by the results, and appreciative of the efforts made by City staff to educate the public about the bond package. Many City staffers took personal leave during the campaign to work on the election. Others campaigned after hours and on weekends.

According to City Manager Bruce Moore, the fact that so many from the City staff were so active was a contributing factor to the success of the election. “The public could see how excited the City staff was about this election, and how important it was to the future of the City.”

The hard work by the City Directors and volunteers resulted in the highest turnout ever for a special bond election. It also resulted in higher approval percentages than any bond election since 1976.

In order to ensure the citizen support continues, a citizens review task force is being set up to help monitor progress on projects as well as assist in updating the public. In addition, City Manager **Bruce Moore** has assigned **Paula Patterson** and **John Barr** to oversee implementation of the bond projects. They will meet regularly with all departments working on bond projects.

VOTE TOTALS

Fire Department:
For: 13,172 Against: 3,554

Police Department:
For: 12,960 Against: 3,758

Emergency communications:
For: 12,908 Against: 3,797

Street improvements:
For: 12,734 Against: 3,913

Drainage upgrades:
For: 12,378 Against: 4,231

Park and zoo improvements:
For: 12,025 Against: 4,601

School crosswalks:
For: 12,383 Against: 4,282

Animal services:
For: 11,762 Against: 4,853

Robinson and Statehouse Convention center upgrades:
For: 10,961 Against: 5,672

City of Little Rock website
www.accesslittlerock.org

Mayor and Board of Directors
City Manager's Office
City Attorney's Office
Community Programs

District Courts
Finance
Fire
Fleet Services

Housing & Neighborhood Programs
Human Resources
Information Technology
Parks and Recreation
Planning and Development
Police
Public Works
Zoo

For more information,
please call
501 371-4510
501 371-4743 (TDD)

Departmental View:

Planning & Development by Christy Marvel

Earlier this year, **Jim Lawson** announced that he would be stepping down as Director of the Planning and Development Department at the end of the year. He has been with the city for thirty years. Below are some reflections on his tenure with the City of Little Rock.

Where are you originally from?
Crossett, Arkansas.

What is your education background?
Bachelors in Sociology from Arkansas State University
Masters in Urban & Regional Planning.

What was your first position title at the city?
Planner I.

In those early years, was there a particular individual that mentored you or someone that you considered a role model?

Don Venhaus, former director
Carlton McMullin, former city manager
Tom Dalton, former city manager

What is the accomplishment of which you are most proud?
Forming the housing and planning departments.

What is your biggest regret?
No regrets.

How would your friends or family describe you?
Determined.

What are you hoping to do once you leave the City?
Work, not retire.

What would you like your legacy to be having been the longest running planning director in the City of Little Rock's history?

The development of 128 neighborhood associations, the Highway 10 overlay, the landscape ordinance, and the acceptance and use of land use plans. Also, I'm proud of fostering of community involvement from both developers and citizens.

What do you foresee as the number one potential problem facing Little Rock regarding future planning?
Lack of capital funds; staff being reduced.

Any final comments?
I've enjoyed my time here and I hope that I've been a mentor and positive influence to City staff.

Finance Puts Bond Team in Place

In preparation for the bond projects, Finance Director **Bob Biles** has announced the following procedures that staff is undertaking.

Bond issuance – Staff is working with the underwriting team of Crews & Associates, Morgan Keegan, and Stephens Inc., as well as the Friday, Eldredge, & Clark and Rose law firms, to develop the lowest cost financing possible. Staff has made presentations to two rating agencies to receive best possible rating. Plans are for the bonds to be sold and to have the bond ordinance ready for the Board to consider on December 16. The City should close on the bonds (get the money) on January 21.

Accounting – Staff has established an accounting structure to be used to track bond proceeds by ballot title (in addition, the Zoo and Parks moneys will be kept separate). This will mean ten capital project funds and one issuance fund with detailed special projects for each project in each ballot title. Staff will provide training on allowed expenditures and establish a procedure to ensure bond dollars are only spent on approved capital items.

Investment of bond proceeds – Staff is developing a projected cash flow for all projects. Using these projections, staff will invest the bond proceeds on January 21, 2004 as well as ensure that interest earned is credited to the bond administration account.

Purchasing - Working with departments to properly issue RFPs and bid packages. Staff will receive bids and assist departments in awarding of contracts. Additionally, staff will monitor minority participation.

*The Employees of Planning & Development
Invite You To Join Us For*

Jim Lawson's Retirement Celebration

*December 11, 2003, 2:00- 4:00 P.M.
In The Rotunda Of City Hall*

*The Office of Information Technology staff
Invite You To Join Us For*

*A Retirement Party in Honor of **Barry Comer***

*December 19th, 2:00 p.m
9-1-1 Building conference room
(W. Markham & State St.)*

Employees Finish Diversity Training

The following employees completed a Diversity in the Workplace Training on October 23-24, 2003. The training is sponsored by the City's Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission.

Public Works

Alva Archer, Ricky Collier, Jason Domerese, Robert Guynes, Butch Harrington, James Hilton, Jr., David House, Allen Illing, Vic Moya, Kenneth Sears, Jeffrey Smith, Kim Thomas, Doug Vaughn, Monique Wallace

Human Resources

Joyce Castle, Pam Wrather

Fire Department

Harry Noble

Fleet Services Sets New Hours

To better provide a higher quality of service to the City of Little Rock and the customers of Fleet Services, the Operations Division changed their hours of operation in October. The new hours are:

J. E. Davis Drive Facility

Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM- 9:30 PM

McKinley Street Facility

Monday- Friday, 7:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Landfill Facility

Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM- 9:30 PM

City Walks As One for NCCJ

On Sunday, November 9, City employees joined others from throughout the community to participate in Walk As One sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

The City of Little Rock had the largest team represented during this year's event and has raised over \$600 toward the goal of \$32,000. Coordinating the city's participation were Chief **Lawrence Johnson, Doris Scales**, and Sgt. **Terry Hastings** of the Little Rock Police Department.

NCCJ was founded in 1927. It is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism. NCCJ promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

Job Announcement Changes

Human Resources is striving to minimize the cost for the job announcement process and still ensure that Departments are aware of current job openings with the City.

According to **Curt Dawson**, "Currently, we print and deliver several copies of job announcements to each department (if announced open to the public or open to all City employees) for distribution and posting on designated job posting bulletin boards in City buildings. To save time and cost, we will begin sending job announcements to City departments in a Microsoft Word attachment that you can print and post in the usual locations."

To begin this process, HR will automatically send the job announcements by email to all timekeepers with a note requesting them to print and post on the usual bulletin boards in their work areas. Departments may wish to assign other employees to be responsible for printing, copying and posting in all worksites.

Email **Ellen Hughes** at ehughes@littlerock.state.ar.us to modify the list of persons in your department responsible for copying and posting job announcements.

Starting Monday, November 17, 2003, only electronic job announcements are being sent to departments for posting. Of course, a few paper copies will be available in the Human Resources Department for walk-in applicants.

14th Annual Aha! Awards Given

On November 24, the 14th annual Aha! Awards were given in recognition of outstanding support of Little Rock's cultural life. The Aha! Awards were founded by the City of Little Rock in 1990.

Bill Rector received the Edwin N. Hanlon Memorial Award for Outstanding Business Leader. Ann Nicholson received the Cultural Spirit Award. St. Vincent Health System received the Corporate Contribution Award given to a larger business.

Today's THV received the Corporate Contribution Award given to a smaller business. They were nominated by the Little Rock Zoo in appreciation for their support.

Mayor **Jim Dailey** presented the Mayor's Award to Little Rock Rotary Club 99 in appreciation for their recent "Culture for Kids" program which raised money for six cultural institutions in Little Rock.

City Beautiful Recognizes Those Who Improve City's Appearance

The City Beautiful Commission recently presented it's annual landscape awards. The awards were presented at the November 18 City Board meeting. The purpose of the program is to recognize outstanding efforts in landscaping and other property beautification efforts. The winners were:

VOLUNTARY UPGRADE:

Little Rock Visitors Center – Curran Hall; Otter Creek Subdivision; Baptist Medical Center

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE:

Pulaski County Rose Garden; Park Plaza Mall; Southwest Regional Medical Center

EXCEEDING REQUIREMENTS:

Madison Heights; Eagle Hill Apartments; The First Tee of Arkansas

Local Arborists Aid Aldersgate

On Saturday October 18th, local tree service companies joined together to provide much-needed tree care work for Camp Aldersgate. Sponsored by the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, arborists spent the day trimming trees, removing deadwood, and raising limbs in and around the camp's facility in west Little Rock. Camp Aldersgate provides educational and recreational opportunities for children with physical disabilities and serious medical conditions.

"Even with deer season opening on the same day, the response to this arborist service day was encouraging", says **Peter Rausch**, Urban Forester with Little Rock Parks and Recreation. As local arrangements chairman it was his job to coordinate the event. "It's a great source of pride in our business that we can get nearly forty arborists from competing companies together for this" Rausch continues. He says that the value of volunteer labor and equipment provided Saturday will be worth nearly \$ 25,000.00. The participating tree care companies come from Little Rock and surrounding communities.

*Mayor Jim Dailey and
the Little Rock Sister Cities Commission
Invite you to join them for a*

*Holiday Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of
Little Rock's Sister Cities Commission*

*Monday, December 15th, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
City Hall Rotunda*

HR Receives National Recognition

The Workers' Compensation Program operated by the City of Little Rock has received recognition as "RUNNER UP" (Public Sector) in the Workers' Compensation Program of the year competition sponsored by *Risk & Insurance Magazine*. The November 2003, of *Risk & Insurance Magazine* details the competition and highlights the programs chosen for recognition.

The City of Little Rock operates a self-funded Workers' Compensation program and has taken a number of initiatives to reduce the incidents and cost of Workers' Compensation incidents.

A separate review conducted by Midwest Employers Casualty Company noted that Little Rock is expected to incur 27% fewer claims and 44% less in total average claim costs than peer organizations. Employing a six-year time frame (January 1997 through December 2002), the report notes that the City has performed 59% better than its peers and is expected to incur \$5,690,000 less in lost wages and medical benefits compared to its peer benchmark for that period.

Jim Bradshaw, Risk Manager for the City, attributes these significant accomplishments to several factors. The most critical factor is an awareness and focus by employees and supervisors of maintaining a safe work environment. Bradshaw states, "it is quite an honor to be recognized by a national publication for the success of the City's program and to see that the efforts by all City employees have resulted in such significant cost savings to the taxpayers of Little Rock."

State of the City Address Set

Mayor **Jim Dailey** will deliver his annual "State of the City" address on Tuesday, January 6, at 5:00 pm. at Little Rock City Hall.

Newspaper Readers Honor City

The *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* recently held its Best of the Best program. Several City programs and facilities received recognition.

Among the winners were:

Best Place to Entertain a Child, LR Zoo

Best Public Golf Course, Rebsamen & War Memorial both received honorable mention

Best Tennis Court, Walker Tennis Center

Best Park, Julius Breckling Riverfront Park received honorable mention

Best Entertainment, River Market received honorable mention

Cox Building Hosts Another Clinton Library Preview Exhibit

In anticipation of the opening of the Clinton Library, the exhibit, "America Presents: A Collection of Books and Gifts of the Clinton Presidency," will run from November 24, 2003 through January 3, 2004 in the Cox Creative Center, 120 Commerce St., in the River Market.

Sponsors of the exhibit are The William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation and the Clinton Presidential Materials Project in partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System and the Cox Creative Center, the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the River Market District.

The exhibit is free, open to the public and handicapped accessible. For group tour information, call 501-370-5050.

Highlights of the exhibit include books from Clinton's personal library, including textbooks from his time as a student at Oxford University to signed books given to him by the authors. A display of what national figures, from former presidents to celebrities, are reading is also featured in the exhibit.

The exhibit includes a special display of gifts from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The exhibit also features a special section on Elvis Presley. Presley was Clinton's musical hero when Clinton was growing up in Arkansas. Some of the more unique items on display include a sampling of Clinton's personal collection of Elvis Presley-related items and Elvis-related gifts given to Clinton during his presidential years.

Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. It will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It will be the last preview exhibit before the presidential library opens.

Countdown on Library Begins

The William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center will open on Thursday, November 18, 2004. Activities will start on Sunday, November 14 and run throughout that week. In anticipation of the opening, the library construction site has a sign which counts down the days to the opening.

More information about the library or the grand opening, can be obtained by visiting the booth inside the River Market or going to www.arkansasglobe.com, and www.clintontours.com

W. W. Williams Police Substation Rededicated

On Friday, October 31, Mayor **Jim Dailey**, several members of the City Board, and City Manager **Bruce Moore** joined police officers, community members, and other city staff in officially rededicating the Northwest Police Substation in memory of Capt. **W. W. Williams**.

William Wallace Williams was born on August 30, 1953, in Little Rock. He passed away on January 13, 2003.

He became an officer on October 28, 1974, and was promoted to Sergeant on April 27, 1982. On July 15, 1985 he was promoted to Lieutenant and on October 5, 1990, he was promoted to Captain.

Captain Williams opened the Northwest Substation in July of 1997 and remained the commander there until his death in 2003.

W. W. was a pilot of small aircraft and enjoyed flying very much. He also had his real estate license and sold real estate during his early years as an officer. He had a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a bachelor's degree in Psychology, associate's degree in English.

He was instrumental in obtaining the helicopter for the Little Rock Police Department and with the design and building of the Northwest Substation.

He was married to Vicki Lynn Williams and had one daughter, Rebecca Williams. His father died in an airplane crash when W. W. was 5 years old. His mother and two sons also preceded him in death. His brother, Sam Williams, retired from the Little Rock Police Department and now is the Chief of Police in Maumelle. His sister, Elizabeth Robinson, lives in Kentucky with her husband.

New Locations for Alert Centers

According to **Aaron Theodore**, Alert Center Operations Supervisor, three of the City's Alert Centers have new locations. Two are temporary due to fires at the original locations, the other is a permanent move.

The temporary locations are:

-East of Broadway Alert Center, 606 E. 21st, phone number remains 376-3406.

-East Little Rock, Nathaniel Hill Complex Room # 50, phone number remains 374-4166

The permanent location of the West Central Alert Center is 4200 John Barrow Road, Suite B. The phone number remains 565-4807.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DECEMBER						
	1	2 City Board Meeting – 6pm	3	4	5	6 Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade
7	8	9 City Board Agenda Meeting – 4pm	10	11 Retirement Reception for Jim Lawson – 2pm	12	13
14	15 Sister Cities Comm. 10 th Anniversary Reception -- 5pm	16 City Board Meeting – 6pm	17	18	19 <i>Hanukkah begins</i> Retirement Party for Barry Comer – 2pm	20
21	22 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> CITY HALL CLOSED	26 <i>Boxing Day</i> <i>Kwanzaa begins</i>	27 <i>Hanukkah ends</i>
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			
JANUARY 2005						
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Kwanzaa ends</i> CITY HALL CLOSED	2	3 Clinton exhibit closes at Cox Building
4	5	6 State of City Address – 5pm City Board Meeting – 6pm	7	8	9	10

Little Rock Board of Directors

Mayor Jim Dailey
 Vice Mayor Willie Hinton, Ward 2
 Johnnie Pugh, Ward 1
 Stacy Hurst, Ward 3
 Brad Cazort, Ward 4
 Michael Keck, Ward 5
 Genevieve Stewart, Ward 6
 B. J. Wyrick, Ward 7
 Dr. Dean Kumpuris, Position 8
 Barbara Graves, Position 9
 Joan Adcock, Position 10

Bruce T. Moore, City Manager
 Bob Turner, Assistant City Manager

City Staff Public Relations Committee

Scott Carter, Co-Chair, **City Manager's Office**, 371-4421, editor
 Paula Patterson, Co-Chair, **City Manager's Office**, 918-5354
 Shayla Beebe, **Mayor's Office**, 371-4791
 Marq Golden, **Community Programs**, 399-3442
 Shonna Green, **Zoo**, 666-2406
 Sgt. Terry Hastings, **Police**, 371-4626
 Asst. Chief Don Kinney, **Fire**, 918-3730
 Shannon Light, **Parks and Recreation**, 375-2552
 Christy Marvel, **Planning & Development**, 244-5473
 Sheena Olson, **Housing & Neighborhood Programs**, 371-4439
 Loretta Prim, **City Attorney's Office**, 371-6878
 Dianne Ramey, **Finance**, 371-4582
 Melinda Thomas, **Information Technology**, 371-4745
 Teresa Wallace, **Fleet**, 918-4217
 Suzette Ward, **Public Works**, 371-4714
 Stacey Witherell, **Human Resources**, 371-4549