

# THE PULSE OF PINE BLUFF

## The Heart Beat of the City

Volume 2, Issue 2  
February 2015

### STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS AT TOWN HALL FEBRUARY 23



The Mayor will hold the first Town Hall Meeting of the year on Monday, February 23rd, located at the Pine Bluff Convention Center's main banquet hall at 5:30pm. It is at this time Mayor Debe Hollingsworth will deliver the State of the City Address. All citizens

are urged to attend this month's Town Hall Meeting to become informed of the current state of our city and the future plans for economic and municipal growth. During the Address the Mayor will outline departmental change and growth, the status of various city projects, as well as, the projections for our community this year.

The Mayor will also summarize the results of the "Listening Tour," campaign, held throughout the month of January. The information which was gathered will assist in formulating a 3 year and a 5 year plan for our city.

#### Inside this issue:

MLK Day Parade Celebrated	2
Mayor Hollingsworth Reports	2
City Projects in Motion	2
Ridgway Christian School Students Excel	2, 3
Goodwill Opens New Location	3
Townsend Park	3
Babe Ruth Hall of Fame	4

### THE SAFE TEAM GEARS UP FOR SPRING

The Support Abatement with Fines and Enforcement Team or SAFE Team assists city officials in monitoring concerns of the community and consists largely of many individuals and city officials, including the Mayor's office, the Police Department, City Inspection and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Street Department, Waste Management, members of the Crime Advisory Committee, Citizen's On Patrol, the Landlord's Association, and at times the State Department of Community Corrections. These are just a few of the groups who have made themselves available to monitor and assist in troubled and disadvantaged areas within the City of Pine Bluff.

The impact of allowing a nuisance site to continue unabated affects not only property owner, but also other adjacent properties and resi-



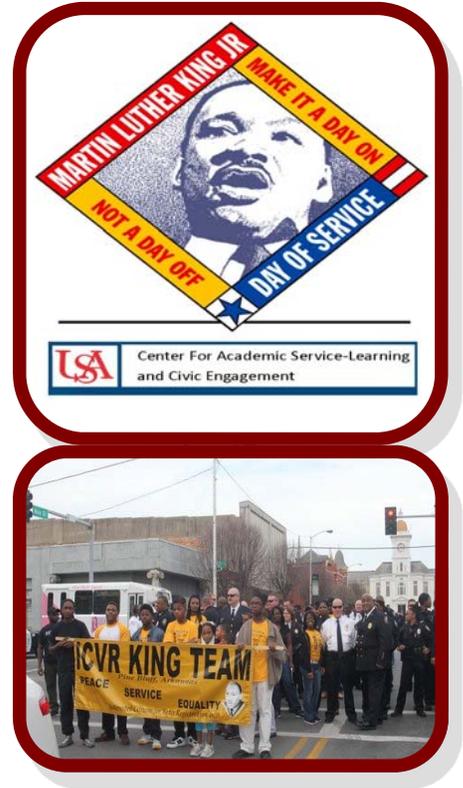
dents of the neighborhood. Moreover, it elevates the crime rate in that area. The SAFE Team will be strategizing and formulating a plan for the next region they will visit on March 11, 2015. The focus of this collective is to encourage our community to take pride in their neighborhood and ultimately their city. With spring right around the corner, outside activities and visitors will increase, making the clean up and beautification of this great city first and foremost on our list.

- State of the City Address
- SAFE Team
- Mayor Hollingsworth Reports
- MLK Day Parade
- Townsend Park
- Babe Ruth Hall of Fame

## MLK DAY PROUDLY OBSERVED

The 31st Annual ICVR KingFest was held January 15-19 of this year. Thanks to the selfless effort of Executive Director Rev. Jesse C. Turner, the Pine Bluff celebration has become the largest in the state and honors the legacy of slain Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. KingFest promotes interracial cooperation, community service and mentoring. The 2015 theme was "Faith in Justice Produces Stronger Communities." The ICVR Pen or Pencil youngsters took the lead in Arkansas to build relations with Law Enforcement as they invited the Pine Bluff Police Department to be their special guest in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade (March/Parade). During their regular meetings youth were instructed on how to respond to

law enforcement in a positive way. Their three step response consisted of 1.) SHOW RESPECT — Showing respect means you will receive respect, 2.) COMPLY — Cooperation fosters trust in an individual, and 3.) BE HONEST — Lying or deception will ruin credibility with an officer. It was emphasized that Law Enforcement is a stressful and dangerous job and Police must approach even the most routine traffic stop with the utmost caution and care as it could quickly become a hazardous, or even fatal situation in seconds. ICVR KingFest saw at least 1,000 participating youngsters at this years event, which included approximately 450 at the First Missionary Baptist Church during Friday nights Youth and Young Adult Gospel Extravaganza.



## MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH REPORTS:



With the "Listening Tour" presently behind us, we are now able to prioritize the concerns of our city by understanding the heart and passion of our people. On February 23, 2015 I will be reporting on the state of our great city. As the Mayor's office and the City Council gathered information from this campaign we began to build a bridge, focused on a forward progressive future for our community. It is this magnitude of enthusiasm, coupled with

knowledge, which moves mountains and affects positive change. As we press toward the mark of our common goal; a beautiful Pine Bluff, let us join together uniting our energy, which is driven by passion, moving our city forward into the "New Direction."

*Mayor Debe Hollingsworth*

## RIDGWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Diedre Young, science teacher at Ridgway Christian High School, is one of 3 teachers from across the nation chosen to participate in NITARP 2015 (NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program) and the first teacher from Arkansas to be a part of this course. Young, plus three of her students (Margaret Reginio, Joy Byrd and Jaicie Chesier) will be spending the rest of the school year, this summer and this fall researching the luminosity of Black

Holes with a JPL Astronomer Mentor and will present their results at the 2016 AAS Conference in Kissimmee, Florida. NITARP partners small groups of educators with a research astronomer for this year-long project. This program pays for Young and two of her students (Byrd and Reginio) to fly to Pasadena, CA in June for a week long intensive training session on Astronomical Research at Cal Tech University and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



The program also pays for Young and two of her students to attend the AAS (American Astronomical Society) meeting in Florida in order to present their findings.



## RIDGWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, CONTINUED

On October 28, 2014 eleven students, Science Instructor, Diedre Young and 3 other chaperones from Pine Bluff's Ridgway Christian High School (RCHS) left for Paderborn, Germany for a seventeen day cultural exchange that involved a joint meteorology project. This exchange was partially funded though GAPP; the German American Partnership Program and was the result of four years of weather blogging between the schools and the group decision to take this one

step further and compare the weather in Arkansas and Germany. Paderborn is located in the middle of Germany and is two hours east of Cologne. It is in the state of Westfalia and the town of 50,000, is known for its computer industries. It was agreed that the joint project would be a weather comparison between the two areas, a study of tornadoes and hurricanes, crop production in both geographical regions and how weather and global climate change have altered crop production in both locations. While the overall reason for the trip was a science mission, the



students were also immersed daily in the German language and culture. Many Germans are vegetarians so several of the students had to eat accordingly! Both English and German language was practiced daily and there was much fun to be had.

## GOODWILL OPENS NEW LOCATION

Goodwill Industries opened a new location in the Oak Park Village Shopping Center on 28th Ave. in Pine Bluff. The grand opening was held on Thursday, January 29, 2015. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 8:45am and the store officially opened at 9:00am that morning.

The Grand Opening Celebration included refreshments, registration for giveaways of \$50 and \$100 shopping sprees and a brand new 42" HD TV. The 20,0002-square-foot store, donation center and career services center will bring more shopping space and

provide career-readiness training, education and employment services to the Pine Bluff Community. Revenue generated from the sale of donated goods provide 96% of Arkansas's Goodwill Industries budget for programs and services, which is geared towards assisting Arkansans with disabilities and other barriers to train for and secure employment.

Operating hours will be Monday—Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



## CITY BOND PROJECT IN MOTION

“Let’s play ball!!” The newly renovated Townsend Park Field is nearing completion and will soon be ready for participants and spectators alike.

Townsend Park Baseball Field was a project listed along with a collection of Bond projects to be completed for the enjoyment of the citizens of Pine Bluff. ETC Architecture presented the idea to the Mayor and City Council in early spring of 2013 and received the go ahead to proceed with the renovations. Gerald Prince Construction was con-

tracted to do the restoration and the progress has been incredible. The Townsend Park Field will now have a concession stand which will serve the entire complex, with a state of the art scoreboard system to accommodate each team.

“The previous ball field was constructed somewhere around the 1920’s or 1930’s,” stated Mr. Mizan Rahman of ETC Architecture, “and has needed to be refurbished for some time. This will be a tremendous attraction for the



City of Pine Bluff for decades to come and will be a legacy which will last the test of time, now and in the future.”

Mayor Debe Hollingsworth  
200 E. 8th Ave., # 201  
Pine Bluff, AR 71665

Phone: 870-730-2000, x7  
Fax: 870-730-2174



*The City of Progress*

We're on the web!  
[www.cityofpinebluff.com](http://www.cityofpinebluff.com)

## Street Department Updates:

- Bolted down tables and benches for Westside Loop on Franklin St.
- Repairing cave-ins and wash-outs
- Patching pot holes
- Installing pipes for property owners
- Cleaning ditches and pipes
- Check catch basins
- Sweeping streets
- Routine maintenance of traffic signal lights and signs
- Surveying street lights for outages
- Weed-eating around bridges and signs
- Cutting grass along street right-of-way



## LARRY MATTHEWS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Larry Matthews, Director of the Pine Bluff Community Development, was inducted into the Babe Ruth International's Southwest Region Hall of Fame Saturday evening, February 7th, at Harbor Oaks Country Club, along with several others.

Each year the Babe Ruth International Organization selects a location for their Annual Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet. The City of Pine Bluff was privileged to host this year's event with a tremendous turnout. Dignitaries who attended included: Mayor Debe Hollingsworth and husband Jack Hollingsworth, CEO and President of Babe Ruth International, Mr. Steve Tellefsen, Vice President and Commissioner of Babe Ruth International, Mr. Robert Faherty, Southwest Regional Commissioner, Mr. Joe Featherston and the

local support and coordinator, Mr. Jim Hill. Due to the tireless efforts of Mr. Hill and his wife, the banquet was an incredible success. There were many other local individuals, as well as corporate entities that received recognition Saturday evening, which included: Duke Fakouri, Sissy's Log Cabin and Simmons 1st Bank.

In addition, the City of Pine Bluff will be hosting the time honored Babe Ruth Baseball World Series. The date of this prestigious event is yet to be determined and will allow our community to express the true definition of "Southern Hospitality." This will be unlike any opportunity afforded us before and we encourage our local business and citizens to support our talented youth and the tremendous national pastime of Babe Ruth Baseball.

