

The Pulse of Pine Bluff

"The Heart Beat of the City"

The "Listening Tour" Kicks Off in January

Mayor Debe Hollingsworth intends to seek the needs of the community as she begins the "Listening Tour" this month. The Mayor and Members of the City Council will canvas the Pine Bluff neighborhoods to inquire about the needs of the residents. Although the city holds Town Hall Meetings once a month, many are not able to attend; and thus, their necessity's are not being addressed.

The "Listening Tour" will allow residents to voice their needs and opinions on a variety of topics. Mayor Hollingsworth is encouraging everyone to attend (at the specified locations), to inform city officials of the citizen's concerns regarding their neighborhood. This new, innovative method of reaching the City of Pine Bluff will increase community involve-

ment and promote a sense of well being for the city's residents.

The list of meeting locations are as follows: Those in Ward #1: Belmont/Broadmoor, 3rd Avenue, and Riverside will meet at Lakeside United Methodist Church, 1500 Olive St., on Thursday, January 29th at 6:00p.m.; Ward #2: Southside, Sheraton Park, Central Park, and Cherry Ridge; on Monday, January 26th at W.T. Cheney Elementary School, 2206 Ridgeway Road, at 6:00p.m.; Ward #3: Jefferson Heights, Westside Loop and Shady Grove, met on Monday, January 12th at Coleman Elementary School, 4600 W. 13th Avenue, at 6:00p.m.; Ward #4: University Park, Mrs. Larry Ferrell and Dollarway on Tuesday, January 27th at St. Luke Methodist Church,



32 School Street, at 6:00p.m. It is this type of concept that will streamline the ability to meet the needs of people faster and more efficiently. For more information regarding the "Listening Tour" contact the Mayor's office at 870-730-2000, x7.

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Coffee With the Chiefs



The dawn of the New Year beckoned the restart of "Coffee with the Chiefs." The first forum for this year was held at Breath of Life Church, located at 1313 South Pine Street in Pine Bluff. It began at 9:00am and afforded the

general public the opportunity to be informed of the plans and projects from the city's foremost leaders. In addition, this forum allows our community to voice any concerns and be well informed of city policy and procedure regarding the

Fire Dept., Police Dept. and Mayor's office. This idea was born in January of 2013 and has been an incredible success for the last two years. The citizens of Pine Bluff are encouraged to attend "Coffee

with the Chiefs", as it has become an amazing tool for our city's leaders and our community. Those who received accommodations for meritorious acts of bravery were recognized after the initial meeting and are as follows:



Coffee with the Chiefs (Cont.)

Pine Bluff Police Officer Shanee Howard; who received a commendation for securing the safety of 800 students at both Morehead Middle School and Townsend Park Elementary; Lieutenant Ronnie Plunkett, Engineer Villa Eans and Firefighter Cathy Braswell for responding to a medical emergency call of an unconscious patient, where CPR was administered and a life was saved. Due to the quick response of these courageous people the patient is doing well today.

These committed and dedicated individuals risk life and

limb on a daily basis to protect and serve the residents of this community.

So it is with much gratitude and appreciation that we recognize those who's purpose is to remain on the front lines of catastrophe and devastation to ensure the health and safety of the City of Pine Bluff.

Remember, this is a forum where the public will be able to interface with our Law Enforcement, Emergency Service and City Officials regarding their policy and procedure in a variety of areas. This is truly for the people and their immediate concerns.



Mayor Hollingsworth Reports:

As time marches on, we dawn a new year which promises the completion of several of our long awaited projects and the conceptual beginning of others. The renovation and renewal of our community is another year closer to reality than before. It is with great anticipation I welcome this New Year as our forward mo-

mentum transports us into the municipal transformation we so fervently seek. Due largely to the combined efforts of our city, 2013 and 2014 has set the stage and we have positioned ourselves to experience greater prosperity through economic growth. I look ahead to the accomplishments and upcoming challenges of

this year, as it is this type of activity which echoes success and great achievement. Knowing we are the hub of Southeast Arkansas, we look to the near future and envision the possibility of new and innovative corporations and industries utilizing the unique position of our great city. It is our job, however, as the citizens of

Pine Bluff, to work shoulder to shoulder to create an atmosphere that will attract the quality of commerce which will ensure proper growth as we grasp new concepts that will launch us in the right direction.

Mayor Debe Hollingsworth

Splash Park Opens Memorial Day

In 2011 the City of Pine Bluff applied to the Arkansas State Department of Parks and Tourism for a grant to partially fund the development of a Splash Park in Saracen Park. The grant was awarded to the City and in 2012 ETC Engineers and Architects was assigned the task of developing conceptual drawings and associated cost estimates. The

design team at ETC was made up of Mizan Rahman, PE Project Manager, William Andrews, PE Project Engineer and Gerry Aver, AIA Project Architect. The project was contracted to ETC Engineers and Architect to provide planning, design and construction of one of the States Premier Splash Parks in the City of Pine Bluff. The unique fea-

tures of the Splash Park includes a jet system, which will allow the City to coordinate the spray jets with music for special events, or simply daily use. Each spray is equipped with LED lighting that can be controlled to color the spray from each jet with thousands of color combinations.

The Park is designed for kids 12 and under with accommo-



dations for parents and caregivers. The park will open on Memorial Day of 2015 and will be free admission. The Park will also be available for private party rental after hours through the Parks and Recreation Dept. For more information and hours of operation contact April Layher at 870-596-0920.

27th Annual Home and Garden Seminar and Show

February 14, 2015 brings the thought of roses and gardens. Understand the fine art of creating a garden in small spaces at the 27th Annual Home and Garden Seminar & Show. This years event consists of informative and educational "how-to" sessions throughout the day including: Pallet Gardening, Fool-Proof Houseplants, Grow Buckets and more. Children's activities will include hands-on activities, Cow and Combine Simulators and a bunny petting and

puppy adoption area. The "Stitching Together" Quilt Group will have a free drawing for a beautiful hand-made quilt. Guest Speakers will speak on - "Gardening in Small Spaces" at 11:00 AM—by Janet B. Carson, U of A Extension Horticulture Specialist, Author and TV & Radio Personality 1:00 PM - Julie Donnelly, Owner/Operator of Deepwoods Farm. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day. Concessions by Jefferson County 4-H with Guest Speaker Topic -

"Gardening in Small Spaces." The event will be held at the Pine Bluff convention Center from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

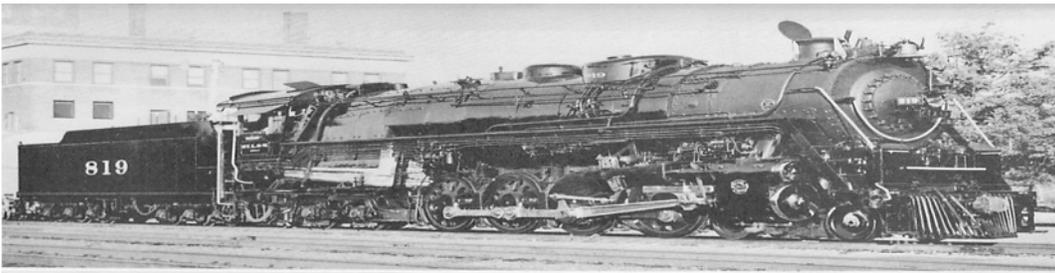
For additional information contact Linda Soffer at:

870-247-1177

ADMISSION WILL BE FREE



20th Annual RailRoadania Show and Sale



Coming this April the Pine Bluff Railroad Museum will be holding their 20th Annual Railroadania. The event will begin at 9:00am and run until 4:00pm on Saturday, April 11, 2015. This event features the largest collection of railroad memorabilia and collectables in Southeast

Historic engines, passenger cars, cabooses and massive snowplow. This event is sponsored by The Cotton Belt Rail-

road Historical Society, Inc. and The Arkansas Railroad Museum. Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 6-12 years of age. Children accompanying a paying adult will be free. The Railroad Museum also features Engine 819 Steam Locomotive built in 1909, along with The Baldwin-Built 336. Among these mentioned above they also exhibit rare diesel locomotives, a complete steam wrecker train, cabooses, etc. This will be an incredible event for all ages.

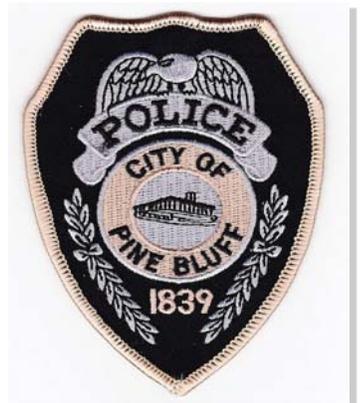
Quality of Life Department to Monitor Areas of Pine Bluff

The City of Pine Bluff's new department, "Quality of Life" has commenced monitoring and enforcing the current ordinances and resolutions laid out by the City Council. This department will be encouraging our community's residents to remove such things as broken down vehicles of all types, large non-working appliances, garbage, yard debris, overgrown grass and any other items which

can be considered an eye sore, from their property. The Department is under the supervision of Deputy Chief Susie Powell, with herself and her staff already making a tremendous difference in a large part of our community. Upon first contact a warning or tag will be posted on the item or items, with 7 days to comply. After that, a citation will be issued with a possible mone-

tary fine attached. Quality of Life will visit various locations but will target the region from 17th Ave. to 6th Ave. and Olive St. to Plum St. These inspections are designed to enlist the efforts of our citizens to take pride in their neighborhood and create a positive image for our city. With this new concept we will strive to become:

"Pine Bluff Proud"





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Pine Bluff Proud



Street Department Update:



- ◆ Pouring Concrete at Taylor Ball Field
- ◆ Set forms for sidewalks at the Splash Park
- ◆ Pour sidewalks at Pullen and Olive
- ◆ Dug out and set forms for driveway at Pullen and Laurel
- ◆ Repair cave-ins and wash outs
- ◆ Picked up limbs for property owners: two Saturdays in December
- ◆ Overlaying Gain, bet. 3rd and City Limits, Port Road, top of levee
- ◆ Patching pot holes
- ◆ Installing pipes for property owners
- ◆ Cleaning ditches and pipes
- ◆ Cleaning basins and jet rodding pipes
- ◆ Sweeping streets: two sweepers
- ◆ Maintenance of traffic lights and checking for outages after dark
- ◆ Installed video detector at Hwy 365 and Brant Street
- ◆ Maintenance of traffic signs
- ◆ Weed-eating around signs and bridges
- ◆ Cutting grass along street right-of-way

Dollarway Youth Invited to Join Pine Bluff // Jefferson County Youth Task Force

Dollarway School District was honored to have the opportunity to participate in the Pine Bluff / Jefferson County Youth Task Force at the invitation of Mayor Debe Hollingsworth. Committee members will be at the forefront of this novel effort to improve the "Quality of Education, Place, and Life" within the City of Pine Bluff and Jefferson County. In addition, the committee will meet monthly to share ideas and formulate goals. Each year the School District will be looking for new students to replace those outgoing who have so faithfully served. This year's committee will include: Keanan Dickson, DHS, 12th Grade, Tiffany Davis, DHS, 12th Grade, Michael Ferrell, DHS, 12th



Grade, John Staton, DHS, 10th Grade, Tameka L. White, Central Office. The City and County looks forward to their input regarding new concepts in education and support for our youth.