

# The Pulse of Pine Bluff

*"Heart Beat of the City"*

February Issue 2016

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## State of the City Address

February 8, 2016 marks the first Town Hall meeting of the year, where Mayor Debe Hollingsworth will be delivering the annual State of the City Address. The meeting will be held in the main banquet hall of the Pine Bluff Convention Center at 5:30pm.

The Address will highlight the progress of the city in the past twelve months, as well as, outline the plan for moving forward in 2016. Although each year brings a new set of challenges, the direction and plan remains the same. Through consis-

tency and perseverance the city has achieved much. While the City of Pine Bluff still has some distance to travel to complete the intended goals; the current progress has received a myriad positive comments by those returning for reunions and homecomings, frequent travelers and visitor alike.

Following the Stated of the City Address there will be time set aside for a Q & A from the Mayor, Council Members and City Department Heads regarding current issues within our community.



## Pine Bluff Zebra Championship Rings



The Church Outreach Committee (COC) and the City of Pine Bluff are very proud of the coaches, staff and the Zebras Football 6A Champions for becoming back to back champions both on and off the field. As the Faith Community in Pine Bluff, let us say in one voice that we are proud of these student-athletes, Coaches and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. As a result of their hard work and recent championship, the Church Outreach Committee and City of Pine Bluff invite you to join with us in showing strong support for the student-athletes in reaching this monumental goal. Please make a generous donation today to: Pine Bluff High School (PBHS) Athletic Department Championship Ring Project. Mail your check to the Church Outreach Committee (COC) and City of Pine Bluff; P.O. Box 5857, Pine Bluff, AR 71611. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call the mayor's office at 870.730.2000 ex 7.

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## Mayor Hollingsworth Reports:



You can ask most anyone, “What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of February?” The majority of folks would say Valentine’s Day, red hearts and chocolates. However, I would say February is a month focused on preparation. Winter is half over and Spring will be creeping upon us before we know it. Most of us are having our tax returns prepared, making lists of the things to discard during Spring cleaning and making plans for the all encompassing annual summer vacation. But as we

diligently prepare for the personal opportunities of 2016, let’s also look outward to the possibilities for the great city of Pine Bluff as a whole. If our collective community reaches out to each other, citizen helping citizen, the rhythm of our city will begin to connect and become one single unified beat. Pine Bluff.....we’re better together!

*Mayor Debo Hollingsworth*



## Space Heater Safety



No matter what type of device you use to heat your home, making sure your heating devices and/or systems are in good working order is an important part of learning some winter fire safety tips. Many things can go wrong with heating equipment during the spring and summer months. Verify that everything you need to keep your home warm throughout the winter is in good working order before you experience a malfunction and possible tragedy.

**Space Heater Safety Tips:** Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory. Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer’s instructions and warning labels carefully. Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If

frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater. Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater. Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes. Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month. Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs. Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.



## Relay for Life Chili Fundraiser



Jefferson County Relay for Life Chili Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 from 11:00am to 2:00 pm. The Fundraiser will be located at the Donald. W. Reynolds Center 211 West 3rd Ave. Pine Bluff, AR

Dine in or carry out available and deliveries will be made with 10 or more orders. \$8 includes a bowl of chili with all the fixins and drinks will be provided for dine in or carry out. For more information contact Shannon Smith at 870-329-7378



## Get Ready, and “Swing into Gardening”



Jefferson County Master Gardeners will host the 28th annual Home & Garden Show in coordination with the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean & Beautiful Commission and the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service. This will be our first ever two-day show and YOU are invited.

Come in out of the cold and get a taste of spring as we “Swing into Gardening” on Friday, February 5th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00

p.m., and Saturday, February 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

The show will be two days packed with information, education, and fun. Janet B. Carson will highlight Friday’s events. Bill Francis, The Good Earth Garden Center, will let you in on the ‘Keys to Successful Raised Beds’ on Saturday. Your admission is free, but for more information contact 870-534-1033



## Girls Volleyball Clinic



Girls Volleyball Clinic will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The clinic will be located at the Chester Hynes Community Center from 9:00am until noon.

The Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging the young girls in our community from the ages of 7 - 15 years old to register for this fun filled clinic. Registrants will also be able to gain information on the

Parks and Recreation Girls Volleyball League. For more information contact the Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation Dept. at 536-0920



## Area Agency Blanket Drive



**Area Agency on Aging  
of Southeast Arkansas, Inc.**

*We care because you care*

The Area Agency on Aging of Southeast Arkansas is hosting the “Share the Warmth Blanket Drive”. The agency is in the process of collecting new blankets for the elderly and/or disabled individual. The event started January 18 and will continue through Thursday, February 18. Blanket donations are accepted in all ten counties we service. Those counties are Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleve-

land, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln. Contact the Area Agency in your county for drop off locations. Jefferson County donations may be dropped off at Area Agency on Aging, 709 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For details contact Carolyn Ferguson at 543-6300 or 1-800-264-3260.



The Pulse of Pine Bluff is written and published through the Office of the Mayor, by Special Projects Coordinator, E. Kelley Bohlmann. If you have any questions or would like to enter an article please call 870-730-2004, Fax 870-730-2174—Monday thru Friday from 8:00am till 5:00pm

## Street Department

### Update

- Checked Street Lights throughout the city.
- Removed Snow and Ice from Bridges and Streets on Jan. 21 and Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Hauled debris from demo houses.
- Installing pipes for property owners
- Dug out soft spots and repaired
- Filled excavations with hot mix
- Patching pot holes
- Cleaning ditches and pipes
- Cut shoulders
- Cleaning basins
- Saw cut street



We're on the Web:

[www.cityofpinebluff.com](http://www.cityofpinebluff.com)

## Winter Storm Yard Debris

Winter is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. However, it can also bring about the most frustrating situations. Along with the beautiful winter scenery also comes falling branches, clogged ditches, area flooding and the like. Because of this, we are listing the Waste Management requirements for disposal of yard debris. Please note the instructions and place in a easy to find location. We hope this provides our citizens assistance on the disposal of winter yard debris.

Tree trimmings, dead plants, dead trees or branches thereof are not to exceed 2" in diameter or 35 lbs. in weight, or reduced to chips or shavings. Limbs must be cut into 3' lengths no larger in diameter than 2" weighing no more than 35lbs and tied into bundles.

Why is it important to keep within the

specifications: The type of truck that collect yard waste is a manually operated rear feed truck. Limbs over 3' in length and 2" in diameter can damage the compaction blade and body of the truck. Tying limb piles into bundles helps in the efficient collection of the material. Equally important is the weight restriction of bags and bundles. Waste Management's personnel hand collect and lift these items into the rear of the truck. Bundles and bags over 35 lbs. can be a safety concern for one man to lift. The lighter the bags the more safe and efficient the collection team can be and the more homes they can service throughout the day. Why is it important to separate these items, yard waste, bulky item and trash? There are three different trucks that collect each type of waste. Yard Waste is dumped in a separate portion of the landfill and reused as com-

post. This compost is made available to the public for free. Bulky items are normally collected with a large "boom truck" with a clamshell bucket. It is important to keep bulky items away from overhead obstructions (power lines), tress, vehicles, mailboxes and other obstructions. Bulky items are best to be called in before the day of service so a ticket can be entered. This allows Waste Management drivers to target the areas rather than drive every street.

We hope this will make the 2015 Fall Season much more enjoyable for everyone! For additional information call Waste Management at 247-3747.

