

**Volume 3 Issue 7
July Issue**

Retail Increase Bolsters Pine Bluff Economy

Pine Bluff has experienced an increase in new retail establishments as well as the expansion of current city businesses in the last year and a half. The increase is outlined by the opening of business such as U-Haul on Camden Rd., Papa Johns Pizza in Watson Chapel, several Dollar General Stores located throughout the city and county; the Good Will expansion and relocation to the old USA Drugs store, on 28th Ave., the new Foodwise Cost Plus Supermarket in the old County Market location, Pine Bluff's first

Italian Restaurant; Fino's, One Stop Auto Parts, Ernesto's Bar and Grill, to name a few. The media representative of Foodwise, Mr. Keith Brown, stated in a phone interview, "The Foodwise Cost Plus Supermarket was so well received that we were running out of shopping carts in the initial part of the day. We have hired 90% of our staff from the local residents of Pine Bluff and couldn't be happier with the overall results and success of this new facility." The city expects this recent upward trend to continue and increase in the near future. The city

appreciates those who have decided to call Pine Bluff home and look forward to experiencing a perpetual increase in the ever growing retail market. Along with the progress of Pine Bluff/Jefferson County industrial and corporate growth, the City of Pine Bluff expects to maintain its upward trend toward becoming a city in motion. Pine Bluff is alive and well, waiting to spread its wings and soar into future economic stability.

Pine Bluff Small Business Owners Form Association

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The Pine Bluff Small Business Association is an association of businesses that have 30 or less full-time employees. They are currently working on a "shop local" campaign in order to assist in the growth of our local hometown businesses, as well as, help to increase the sales tax revenue in Pine Bluff and Jefferson County. Pine Bluff's small businesses aid the community in lending a small hometown feeling to our area while receiving the benefits of a larger metropolitan city. The PBSBA has allowed the



small businesses of Pine Bluff to keep abreast of the city's ordinances and laws governing small businesses, as well as, collaborate on methods which will benefit the small business community as a whole.

Anyone interested in joining can contact Trisha Shank at Deja Vu Upscale Consignment at 870-692-7576 or John Nicholson at Nicholson's Heat and Air 870-738-9936. The Pine Bluff Small Business Association is ready to assist in new and current small businesses have a voice in the City of Pine Bluff and surrounding area.



Mayor Hollingsworth Reports:



Independence Day! It almost has a melodious ring. The word independence has a lengthy and majestic definition, however, there are terms peppering its definition that stand out and evoke a sense of hope. It contains words such as self-determination, sovereignty, liberty and freedom. However, before we light up the barbeques, spend a fortune on a small arsenal of fireworks and order up the ribs, we need to remember those overseas and abroad who have and still are fighting for the freedom of the United States. The City of Pine Bluff exemplifies the definition of independence when putting its best foot forward toward a becoming better community,

together. Moreover, the independence we celebrate comes when the whole becomes strong. We can accomplish so much more together. I encourage you to find a need in the community, meet the need and inspire others to do the same. Let's keep our city moving forward toward the future and the economic prosperity it brings.

Mayor Debe Hollingsworth



Guns and Hoses Blood Drive

It's been 2 1/2 years since Arkansas Blood Instituted (ABI) began servicing JRMC daily with every unit of blood they use and they are in need of life giving blood to meet the needs of our growing community.

So far, they have developed blood drives with only 7 accounts in the Pine Bluff area including Tyson Foods, Evergreen, Pine Bluff High School, UAPB, Family Church and Pine Bluff Arsenal. Those drives amount to about 450 units of blood annually and they are grateful for each of those donors and sponsors. They deliver over 600 units of blood each month to JRMC,

so the drives are not reaching the need of a just a single month's usage. There will always be a need for blood donors so ABI is asking the citizens of Pine Bluff to roll up their sleeves for the greatest cause ever.....LIFE.

Please plan to attend the Arkansas Blood Institute's Guns and Hoses Blood Drive on July 6, 2016 from 11:00am to 5:00pm at the Pine Bluff Convention Center Main Banquet Hall.

They also have some exciting offers for those who donate, so be sure to get in on these amazing gifts for giving someone the gift of Life.

SUPPORT YOUR HOMETOWN HEROES
GUNS N' HOSES
 Community Challenge Blood Drive

Pine Bluff Guns & Hoses Blood Drive
Wednesday, July 6 • 11 AM - 5 PM
 Convention Center Banquet Room
All donations support your local hospital JRMC

To schedule your appointment, visit www.arkbi.org or call Bob Woodall at 501-592-9072.

Each donor also receives one free park admission to Magic Springs (Resident Blood - Pin. Ariz. donors may redeem weekends through Oct. 2016)

ALL DONORS get a limited edition Guns N' Hoses T-shirt!

Photo ID required - For more info call 1-877-340-8777

Arkansas Blood Institute

Gardening Basics Seminar



The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Jefferson County Extension Office will host a small seminar on gardening basics. This seminar is going to be conducted by Mr. Lee Anderson II, County Extension Agent. The seminar topics will be on when to plant, what to plant, when to water, when to apply chemicals or DIY pesticides to a garden, and many more gardening basic. Space is limited to the first 20 people who register, so please pre-register by July 11th by calling our office at 870-596-1033 to reserve your

seat. Seminar date will be Monday, August 15th 2016 form 10:00am to 12:00noon at the Jefferson County Of- fice located at 500 Idaho Street, Pine Buff, AR.



Pine Bluff Presents 4th of July Fireworks

The Pine Bluff Festival Association and the Pine Bluff Parks & Recreation Department have once again teamed up to host the annual 4th of July Celebration. Billy Coble, of K-Train 104.5, will begin playing music at 8:00 pm. Then the night really lights up with Southeast Arkansas' largest display of fireworks, which begins approximately at 9:00 pm. This year, again sponsored by Relyance Bank, Simmons Bank,

K-Train 104.5 FM and the Pine Bluff Festival Association. Come join us and have a safe and fun 4th of July at Pine Bluff's Regional Park Softball Complex. For more information call Pine Bluff Parks & Recreation at 870.536.0920 or Pine Bluff Festival Association at 870.536.7600. In case of severe weather the event will be held on July 5th at 9:00pm at the same location.



Citizen's Fire Academy



The Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services (PBF&ES) is proud to announce the 2016 Citizen's Fire Academy. The Fire Department would like to provide the citizens of Pine Bluff with a vivid picture of the services provided by the men and women of the PBF&ES. This program is for the Pine Bluff residents 20 years of age and older who are interested in learning more about how the fire department conducts its day to day operations.

Participants will meet at the Pine Bluff Training Facility, located at 3216 W. 7th Ave., once a week on Thursday and experience things such as the training process, apparatus familiarization, hazardous materials and much, much more. Classes will begin on July 21, 2016 at 6:00pm. The last week of the 8 week program will conclude with a graduation ceremony and the presentation of certificates and awards. For additional information contact Carla Covey at 730-2048.

Veteran's Museum Committee Makes Progress

The Pine Bluff Military and Veteran's Museum has been organized as a non-profit organization with a local board of directors and has recently received their 501 (c)3 non-profit designation.

The museum is seeking artifacts and memorabilia associated with the Pine Bluff Arsenal as a focus for it's collection. Local items are preferable but any military or veteran artifacts will be gladly accepted for the museum inventory. Although the museum is in it's development stages, the committee is actively seeking a suitable location to properly display

the collected items with the honor they are due. Volunteers, Veterans from any branch of the United States armed service and other interested parties are welcome to join with the board of directors as they endeavor to bring together the finest collection of the unsung heroes of our country. Programming for the museum will include youth programs designed to educate students on military history, service and commitment. For further information please contact Jack Jones, Chairman 870-692-6400 or Carolyn DeVos, Secretary 870-879-5321.



Pine Bluff Grider Field Aviation Museum Fundraiser



The Pine Bluff Grider Field Aviation Museum, Inc. will hold its third Annual Air Show and Fundraiser on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 11:00am-2:00pm. The purpose of the fundraiser is to restore the only remaining WWII Barrack located at Grider Field and develop an aviation Museum.

Tyson Foods is providing chicken dinners for the event. Tickets will be \$12.00 per meal and have been on sale since June 1st.

The purchase of a ticket includes a meal of a quarter chicken, two sides

and a drink, plus entry into a drawing for a two person 30 minute sightseeing flight over Pine Bluff, courtesy of Mike's Flight Service. Tickets may be obtained from a museum board member, by calling 870-543-9933 or by calling the airport office at 870-534-4131.

The airshow will begin at noon and include a flyby of the WWII War Birds, as well as, six separate acts. The airshow is free to the public. The purchase of a dinner is not required to view the airshow, although donations will be appreciated.



Lake Saracen Splash Park



The Lake Saracen Splash Park has reopened and the water is refreshing. This is the second season for the Splash Park and it is ready for use. It's hours of operation are 9:00am until 6:00pm Monday thru Saturday. 1:00pm to 8:00pm on Sundays.

Located just west of Saracen Landing, this park has free admission, picnic tables for the older kids and vending machines on site. There are two restroom areas and a separate

changing room available. The Park is also available to rent for parties and special occasions in the evening as the park is well lit at night. In addition, several of the jets are lighted with various colors to make a fun nighttime experience.

Please remember this is for kids 12 and under and must have adult supervision. For more information please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 870-536-0920.



First Assembly to Hold Freedom Fest



First Assembly of God Church will be holding their 6th Annual Freedom Fest 2016 on July 3rd at 7:00pm. Activities will include: bounce houses, a fire truck, a pie eating contest, sno-cones, a rock climbing wall, a mechanical bull and more. The event will be held on the church grounds so be sure to grab a lawn chair. Although all of the festivities are free, there will be a vendors table with

patriotic novelties such as glow bracelets, glow necklaces, etc. to purchase for the public.

First Assembly is located at 1002 Ridgway Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603. For further information regarding Freedom Fest 2016 please contact the church at 870-536-0371.

This will be an evening of food, fun, fellowship and fireworks. If you don't have something planned, come and join the fun at First Assembly of God Church!





4th of July Safety Tips



The start of summer is the perfect time to gather with family and friends for good food and fun times. This year, celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in a safe way. Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services would like to offer these 4th of July safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday.

Sparkler & Fireworks Safety

More than 50,000 fires are caused by fireworks every year. Take the proper precautions when operating fireworks.

- Never disassemble or try to make your own fireworks.
- Don't point sparklers, or fireworks at yourself or others, especially while they're being lit.
- Only light fireworks on the ground and in areas that are dry and fire resistant.
- Don't attempt to light multiple devices at the same time.
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks or sparklers.

Always keep a portable fire extinguisher close by. Also keep a water hose or buckets of water nearby to put out fires.

Water Activity Safety

As July is one of the hottest months of the year, many families turn to water activities to beat the heat. However, even fun water activities have serious risks if the proper precautions aren't taken.

- Review safe boating practices.
- Never consume alcohol while driving a boat.
- Before boating, always check that there are enough life preservers on hand for every passenger.
- Set water safety rules for your family.
- Pools should be enclosed completely with a fence to restrict access to the area. Consider installing wireless outdoor sensors that will alert you via phone or with a chime inside your home if the sensors are activated.

Keep a first aid kit near the pool.

Grilling Safety

July is one of the peak months for grilling fires. Enjoy grilling your favorite meals this summer while also keeping your family safe.

- Check gas grill hoses for cracks, holes and leaks.
- Keep children away from grills. Gas leaks, blocked tubes, and propane tanks can be a cause of grill fires and explosions.
- Never grill indoors, in the garage, in any enclosed area or on a surface that might catch fire.

Keep the grill at least two feet away from decks, siding, branches and any outdoor equipment that can catch fire quickly.

If you follow these simple 4th of July safety tips, your entire family will be sure to have a safe and memorable holiday. Reminder; Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency services will provide and install smoke detectors, perform free home surveys and provide numbers for home addresses to citizens who reside in Pine Bluff by calling 870-730-2048 and request these services.

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, or Fax 870-730-2174, Monday thru Friday from 8:00am till 5:00pm

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We're on the Web!
www.cityofpinebluff.com

Summer Blast Tournament

The Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation presents the 2016 Regional Park Softball Summer Blast Tournament July 16 & 17, 2016. The location will be at Regional Park Ball Field and admission will be \$300 entry fee per team. The entry fee and roster deadline is Friday, July 8, 2016. There will be Pool Play (3 Games Guaranteed), Plus a Single Elimination Tournament. Register On-line at: www.pbparcsandrec.com Entry fee payments should be

made payable to: Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation c/o Summer Blast Recreation P.O. Box 7676 Pine Bluff, AR 71611



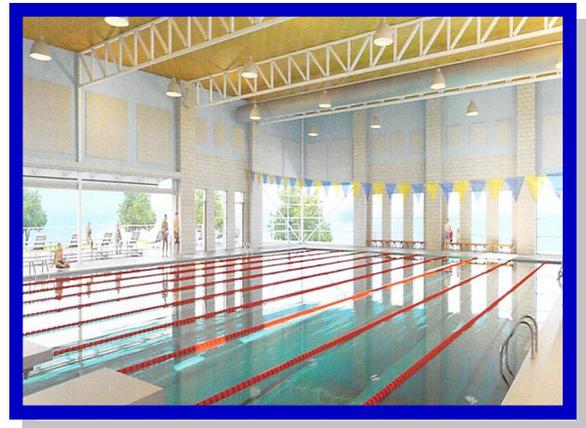
Proposed Pine Bluff Aquatic Center Moves Forward

The City of Pine Bluff is making great progress now that there is full funding for the proposed Pine Bluff Aquatic Center. The center is in the program design planning and operational cost analysis phase. The Pine Bluff City Council passed a resolution during the June 6th City Council Meeting approving the 6.3 million in funds required to build the Pine Bluff Aquatic Center.

The Aquatic Center will be located at 10th and Convention Center Drive. It will include a competition size swimming pool, a secondary recreational / children's / Therapy pool as well as meeting and party rooms adjacent to the pool. Some of the proposed programs will include;

water safety, water aerobics, lifesaving, water rescue, scuba diving, swim lessons on various levels, swim teams and club, school, and collegiate swim competitions, water polo and much, much more. Other special interest events could include the Special Olympics and Para Olympic competitions. In addition, personal trainers and specialty trainers will be welcome.

The development and contractor procurement process will take approximately 90 days after the design phase is completed sometime this fall. The construction on the Aquatic Center is expected to begin in late spring of 2017.



(Artistic renderings are by Crafton Tull & Associates, Inc.)

