**July 2023** 

On-Site Visitors: 2,257
The Nook Functions: 6

## **MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE**

As part of our partnership with the City, Gloria Sanders attended the Arkansas Municipal League Conference with Mayor Hamby and Council Member My Kim Parnell. Sanders attended several sessions related to economic development and community promotion. It was a great networking, learning, and partnership activity for us.

## **MAIN STREET ARKANSAS**

For three years, we have been an affiliate program of Main Street Arkansas. Through this program, we have been able to provide grants and support to our local businesses for new signage, operating assistance, and historic preservation. We have applied to become a full designated program. There have been no new designated programs in the past decade, so it would be a great honor for us to be accepted. Fully designated programs also receive access to lots more grant dollars and assistance programs for local businesses. Our application was over 100 pages long and includes details on what we have been doing for our community. Executive Director Gloria Sanders and Board Chairman Steven Mitchell presented our application to the Main Street Arkansas Advisory Board in late June and we should receive notification soon.

## **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS**

We started construction on several projects to benefit our community. We completed the transformation of three lots behind Main Street into a green parking lot. This parking space will hold approximately 12 cars and includes space for a public garden. In the future, we have plans to add picnic tables and a pavilion. These lots were given to the Foundation by Mark Tew and Linda Boulton, longtime owners of the Riverview Hotel.

We also started work on transforming an area of the science center into Tommy's Clubhouse. This space will be used for science labs, art classes, and birthday parties. The walls will be washable and provide durability for children's events (like birthday parties) and will allow us to use The Nook for more elegant gatherings. And, it gives us two spaces at the same time.

## **NEW EXHIBITS**

We have a new exhibit on the Izard County Sheriff's Office and updates to several others. We invite you to come by the always updating Calico Rock Museum. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

