

STATE OF THE CITY 2016

The City of Ward is a Mayor/Council form of Municipal Government, in the State of Arkansas. This past year our city saw a very productive year which certainly continues to make a better quality of life for our citizens.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Continued upgrade of computers to Windows 10, increased system security
- Set up computers and printer for public use along with desk and items to operate
- Coordinated Spring Clean Up
- Relocated Water Field Office
- Continued to place security camera systems as needed
- Prepared building space and grounds for Head Start program

ANIMAL CONTROL:

- Animals picked up – 174
- Animals adopted – 111
- Animals Euthanized – 91
- Animals returned to owners – 55
- Completed ASACA Level 1 training class
- “Fund the Fur” nonprofit started
- Yard Sale Fundraiser - \$2,200.00
- Renovations and upgrades to shelter completed

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Training completed in the following courses
- Auxiliary/Part Time 1/11 CLEST Law Enforcement
- Law Enforcement OC Spray
- Flood Plain Administrator with the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission
- Mitigation Plan Workshop with Lonoke County Sheriff’s Office and Office of Emergency Management

- Assisted in the Big Red Gas Station opening, meetings, permits, etc.
- Issued 129 Violation Citations, 165 Violation Warnings, 89 Building Permits

DISTRICT COURT:

- Processed: 247 criminal citations
- 52 DWI
- 62 city ordinances
- 1070 traffic violations, 48 Juvenile traffic citations
- Issued 2273 warrants
- 5447 receipts

DEPUTY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:

- Developed and Published new websites for City of Ward and Parks and Recreation
- Began development of a District Court Office Training Manual
- Initiated specific training for the Friday morning meeting
- Developed with Production Control, written Purchase Procedures for the city
- Completely revamped the Production Inventory Control System
- Remodeled parts storage area to separate Water and Wastewater parts per the USDA
- Processed more than \$200,000 in Purchase Order Water and/or Wastewater parts
- Initiated request to move Ward's District Court office to the State's Court Management Software, awaiting final approval and implementation plan
- Oversaw implementation of Badger Water Meters Beacon software on a trial basis.
- Reviewed various Supply Management Software, recommended WASP software, awaiting funding
- Began development of a New/Updated City of Ward Emergency Operations Plan
- Managed Construction Phase of SRTS II Project
- Assigned to Manage SRTS III Project, now combined with Parks 7 Rec TAP Project
- Coordinated Ward's first ever Community Night with the Travs'
- Began research on a Mass Notification System for the city
- Initiated a study of cell phone usage by city employees
- Developed contracts for the rental of city property
- Coordinated with Headstart officials to bring the Headstart program to the City Hall Complex
- Instrumental in setting up several city events, July 4th, Fishing Derby, Christmas Parade, Christmas Decorations
- Training:
 - Attended both Water Conferences in Hot Springs
 - NADCP Convention
 - Semi-annual Municipal League Conference
 - Accepted into UALR's Certified Public Manager Program – Began October 2016

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Structure fires 11
- Vehicle fires 6
- Grass fires 29
- Rescue/Medical Calls 305
- Vehicle Accident Rescues 41
- Mutual Aid Calls 23
- Planned and conducted the Fireworks Show at the City of Ward's 4th of July Celebration
- Purchased new Personal Protection Equipment (Turn Outs) for firefighters
- Continued weekly training for firefighters
- Participated in Community Activities: Ward Central Elementary Open House, Fire Safety for Ward Central Elementary, Annual Christmas Parade

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- Spring Sports: Enrollment by about 25 from Spring 2015 for baseball, t-ball, soccer
- Coed had total of 7 teams, up by 1 from Spring 2015
- Received team sponsorships from Cornerstone Assembly Church, First Security Bank, K-9 Grooming & Boarding, Ward Chamber of Commerce and Centennial Bank
- Ward Angels participated in the "**Field of Dreams**" while running onto the field for pre-game ceremonies with Arkansas travelers on 4/23/2016
- Fall Sports: Enrollment numbers up by 8 from Fall 2015 for soccer
- Coed had total of 6 teams for Fall, up by 2 from Fall 2015
- Sports Complex: Held more 10u/12u tournaments at the field
- Revenue increased from field reservations and coed tournaments
- Received free bleachers from LRAFB for the soccer fields
- Held a soccer camp in July
- Hung a 4X8 directional Ward sports complex sign by fire station
- AHTD put Ward Park directional signs on AH-319 & Industrial Drive
- Made necessary adjustments to the 200' field
- Put up netting over the playground area
- Director: Attended Arkansas Park and Recreation Annual Conference, also attended Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines with SkillPath and The Conference on Leadership Development and Teambuilding with SkillPath
- Entered a float in the Ward Christmas Parade
- Worked on the property ownership around the Ward Sports Complex
- Conducted surveys for input on programs and sports complex
- Worked with Special Events Coordinator on July 4th and Fishing Derby
- Grants: Awarded TAP grant for Walking Trail Park Connection Project
- Awarded GIF grant for restrooms at Sports Complex

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Updated and replaced two vehicles in the fleet
- Remodeled and upgraded the Communications Office
- Upgraded our radio communications systems
- Warrants served 880
- 911 service calls 425
- Vehicle accidents 101
- Outside agency assists 581
- Alarm calls 129
- Arrests 208
- Citations 337
- Warning/Contact cards 427
- Domestic Violence calls 174
- DWI arrests 13
- House watch/extra patrol request 2,439
- After hours business checks 2,632
- Complaint calls for service 5,952
- Criminal investigations 250
- Incident reports filed 1000
- Officers attended continuing education; two officers graduated from the Police Academy

PROBATION:

- Appointments scheduled 187
- CSW Individuals 122
- Letters mailed 266
- Warrants Issued 71
- Payments Received 518
- Attended court sessions, DWI court sessions, two training courses, DWI conference
- Oversaw Community Service with prisoners
- Assisted Chamber of Commerce with set up and food distribution
- Sprayed city in the mosquito control program
- Assisted in July 4th and City Wide Clean up

STREET DEPARTMENT:

- Improved and maintained drainage throughout the city
- Improved drainage for park and ball fields
- Graded and leveled fields for parks, installed barrier cable around parks
- Graded and salted roads during snow & ice events
- Kept ditches mowed and free from debris and trash

- Maintained city streets and right of ways
- Installed new drainage culvert, had Industrial Drive chip sealed/paved
- Replaced damaged/rusted out culverts a various locations
- Had Margie Lane and Marshall street chip sealed and completed other paving projects in city
- Maintained city, water and police vehicles and equipment
- Made improvements in and around city shop
- Remodeled 2nd street property for water utility department
- Assisted with setup and wiring of the city inventory building
- Assisted Parks & Rec. in maintaining ball fields and park area
- Conducted city wide Spring Clean Up
- Set up for and assisted in the July 4th event
- Installed and assisted in city wide Christmas lighting and displays

WATER UTILITIES-FIELD:

- Completed service requests including
- Inspections for plumbing/hvacr on new and existing construction
- Fire Hydrant installation, maintenance
- Building and grounds maintenance
- Meter sets, replace, repair meter boxes, meter replacements
- Liftstation Maintenance/repair
- Completed various services calls, including pressure flow, dirty water, sewer stoppage, vacuum system problems, water leaks, service replacement, water main extension, water tank repairs
- Purchased 218,787,000 gallons of water
- Treated 176,683,000 gallons of wastewater
- Hired 3 new employees

WATER OFFICE:

- Received one new computer
- Late bills sent out 10,274
- Customers billed overall 45,567
- New customers 449
- New meters installed 65
- Payments processed 46,403
- Collected \$21,483.47 in bad debts
- Served 500 hamburgers and hot dogs at July 4th celebration
- Had 101 participants for fishing derby with 66 fish caught

There are many other areas that our city oversees to make a better quality place to live: The Planning Commission is very active to make sure we get the very best product for our citizens. They meet

monthly and are an all voluntary service which has implemented a new master plan for our city. The Parks and Recreation work hard to provide recreational opportunities for you. Your support is needed and appreciated.

There are many activities for all to enjoy: City Wide Clean Up, Fishing Derby, July 4th Celebration, Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting are all planned, organized, and conducted by our city employees for the benefit and enjoyment of our citizens and persons from the surrounding areas. Senior citizens meet weekly and serve snacks/meals for a donation. They meet on Thursday's at 12:00 noon, meetings are open to all ages here at Ward Municipal Complex.

There are several support organizations which are partnered with our city:

Central Arkansas Development Council;

Ward Chamber of Commerce;

Central Arkansas Planning Development District;

Public Computer Library – City of Ward;

Mid Ark Water Alliance;

Metro Plan;

Municipal League;

LRAFB Community Council;

Local Churches;

Local Banks;

Boy Scouts

Girl Scouts

These are just a few that support our city to make a better quality of life for all.

Our city continues to grow with new construction permits valued at \$6,932,985 for 2016. This is a 15.4% increase over the previous year.

This year we will focus on improving the intersection at 319/367 Hwy. at railroad crossing, maintenance of streets, paving of streets and resurfacing. Three (3) streets will be considered for surfacing. Many ditches will be cleaned for proper surface run-off of rain water which will help prevent flooding. Grant for safe sidewalks to school has been awarded and to be completed in 2017, phase III to be included, plus a walking trail at the city park.

The Water Department focuses on construction providing the very best quality water to our customers. We will continue protecting all our water sources and continue electronic surveillance of these important locations. Lonoke White Public Water Authority is on line in our third year pumping quality drinking water from Greers Ferry Reservoir at Cove Creek and several water companies have joined the Public Water Authority. The wastewater system is being up-graded to meet the necessary treatment requirements IAW, Federal, State, Local laws, (as required); a loan from USDA – RD as been secured in the amount of \$4.8 M.

Allied Ambulance Service continues to provide outstanding service to the city. They are highly trained and certified in all areas of responsibility.

“Team Ward” is serving you at their best. Our employee’s are multi-skilled in every department. I give all the Thanks and Praise to our Lord Jesus Christ for what he has done for all.

Art Brooke

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Brooke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor, City of Ward