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# Smack Talk

ISSUE 20



OCTOBER 2015

## Great Arkansas Cleanup

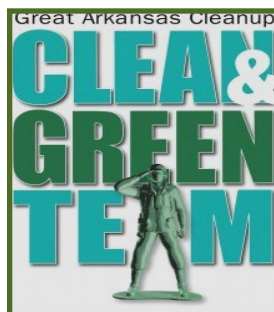
Smackover Chamber of Commerce is taking part in the Keep Arkansas Beautiful annual fall statewide litter pickup campaign, the Great Arkansas Cleanup.

Chamber manager, Sandra Mills, is coordinating the event this year. She says that litter continues to be a problem in Smackover, and it can leave a negative impact on our community for years to come.

Everyone in the Smackover area is encouraged to participate in the effort. We've already had many from local church and youth groups, school groups and clubs, and the Chamber Board of Directors to pledge to help in the cleanup.

We are hoping that more volunteers will join us on October 17, 2015 to

participate as well. All volunteers are asked to meet at the Smackover



Chamber of Commerce office, located at 710 Pershing Hwy in Smackover, by 9:00 a.m. that morning.

Main gateways of Smackover, and Tennyson Park are the focus areas of the pickup. Vests, gloves, and trash bags will be provided by the program. All volunteers should wear comfortable, close-toed shoes and brightly colored, weather appropriate clothing, and bring anything

else they desire to use for the pickup, such as long-handled "trash-grabbers". The cleanup is scheduled to last from 9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m..

This year's local clean up is sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Keep America Beautiful and Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation.

Mills shared that litter is everyone's responsibility. Although not everyone litters, we do all live in this community together and must work together to keep it clean and green. Let's team up out of community pride to maintain our outstanding quality of life and improve our local economy!

### BINGO

Bingo will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the old city hall building. The Lions' Club, which sponsors the monthly event, plans to implement a new system for the game. Starting in October, they will collect \$20.00 at the door to cover all ten games which will be played. Each player will receive three bingo cards for every game. The intention is to cut out the need for players to buy new cards for every game.



*Alderman Fleming said that the building would be a better location for a Community Center, as it was more accessible to the handicapped and elderly.*

## City Report Highlights

From the August 10, 2015 meeting minutes, which were approved in the September 14, 2015 meeting:

Ald. Long, chair of the Animal control Committee, addressed the council about their progress, sharing that the committee used an ordinance given to them at last month's meeting and tailored it to fit the needs of our City. Animal Control Officer Charles Hartsell answered questions. Alderman Long will prepare a draft in the form of an ordinance for next month's (September's) meeting.

Mayor Neal readdressed the interest in using the Old City Hall building as a Community Center. Ald. Fleming said that the building would be a better location for a Community Center, as it was more accessible to the handicapped and elderly. The current upstairs location of our Community Center poses problems for them, and use of the chair lift is dependent on the Library's hours of operation. The new

location would do away with these deterrence's and give everyone the opportunity to attend community functions. Ald. Fleming continued that modifications would need to be made in order to add a full kitchen to accommodate food preparation for events. Wayne Trull, City Architect, will go through the building and plan remodeling ideas to share with the Council. Any modifications needed would be bid out at a later time.

Mayor Neal addressed Council about the meeting with Nathan Rutledge, of Crews & Associates, concerning refinancing our current sewer bonds (not to include the recent sewer bond approved by the Council). Council unanimously voted to refinance the bonds at a lower interest rate, with a higher note, decreasing payment period by nine years.

Trent Garner, a representative of Sen. Tom Cotton, addressed the Council, sharing that his office was there to help, and gave them the

Senator's contact information.

Fire Chief Neal reported on Fire Dept. purchases, Fire Prevention Week and the recent ISO Audit, saying it would be December before they give their findings or adjust our rating.

James Mack reported high grass on an adjoining property. Melva Parsons reported a water leak and a problem with feral hogs on her daughter's property on Pierce Rd. Public Works Dir. Benjy Hildebrand was asked to fix the leak. Ald. Long inquired about the progress of the downtown park. Mayor Neal reported on proceedings, sharing that there will be a plaque placed there, possibly naming it "Langley Park" in honor of the Langley family, who donated the land to the city.

*(Report modified by Sandra Kerr Mills from original minutes recorded by Recorder/Treasurer Rick East)*



# Trunk Or Treat Causes Stir!



It is often difficult to please everyone when planning events. The impossibility of getting everyone's schedule to line up

## Trunk or Treat set for Halloween Night

is one which haunts every planner.

Smackover Chamber of Commerce was recently reminded of this when we set the date and time for our annual Trunk Or Treat Celebration.

One perk of a small community is that your opinion is more easily heard, and we thank all of you who voiced yours! We'd

like to say, "We heard you!"

Trunk Or Treat is now set for Saturday, October 31, 2015. Merchant trunk or treating begins at 5 p.m. and the Costume Contest begins at 6 p.m.. We thank our merchants who will be out that Saturday to treat our children!

Come on out and scare up some fun with us.



## Member Spotlight



Smackover Chamber of Commerce would not exist without its members! You are all very important to us.

October's Spotlight Members are:

- ♦ Paul Givens
- ♦ Smackover Pharmacy
- ♦ Smackover Motors, Inc.
- ♦ Young's Funeral Directors

The Chamber plans to visit these businesses this month to personally thank them for their generous support.

We encourage you to do business with these businesses, which give back to our community. They help make all of the community events that we host possible.

*As the world turns, and times change, we can see perilous times on the horizon. Let those who are followers of Jesus Christ find strength and courage!*

*"So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me."*

**—Hebrews 13:6**



## Assistant Superintendent Retires

Smackover-Norphlet School District said good-bye to one of its key members in September, as Mr. John Gross, Assistant Superintendent, retired.

Formerly Superintendent for the Norphlet School

District, Mr. Gross began filling his current role when the two districts merged in 2014.

He has worked hard in his tenure with the enlarged school district, aiding the district's reorganization and

the renovation of the Norphlet Middle School, which opened officially at the beginning of September, 2015.

Thank you, Mr. Gross, for your service!

*(adapted from Buckaroo Blog)*

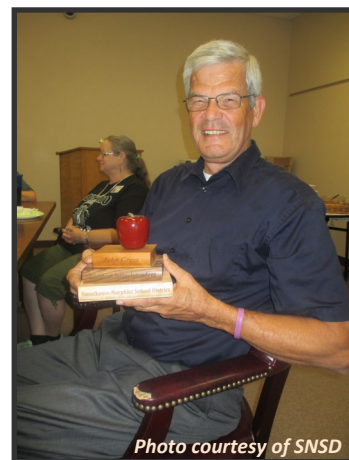


Photo courtesy of SNSD



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Working and serving together  
for a stronger community!

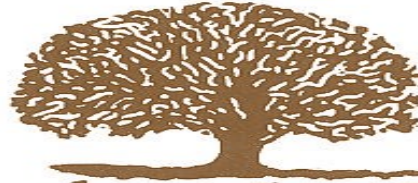
Chamber Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of Every Month

**WARNING: Dates in calendar  
are closer than they appear!**

*(famous-oneliners.blogspot.com)*

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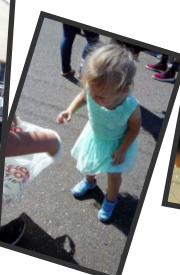
611 N. Broadway, Smackover, Arkansas 71762

"Where all food is soul food... It just depends on where the soul resides."

HOMEcoming 2015



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SMACKDOWN!

