

# The State of the City

Helena-West Helena, Arkansas

Finding Our Way Back: 2022



# Information: The Need to Know

March, 2022

- 1.) Communication & Transparency
  - 2.) Census
  - 3.) Pandemic
  - 4.) Financial Condition
  - 5.) Public Safety: Police & Fire
  - 6.) Water & Sewer Utility Company
  - 7.) Public Works
  - 8.) Code Enforcement & Animal Control
  - 9.) The Economy: Unemployment & CPI
  - 10.) Jobs & Economic Development
  - 11.) Parks & Tourism
  - 12.) District Court
  - 13.) The Airport Commission
  - 14.) Other Commissions
  - 15.) Vision 2022
  - 16.) Challenge
-

# Citizen Engagement

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**MAYOR**  
IN MY  
*Neighborhood*

**7-9AM OR 4-6PM**

**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

MAYOR KEVIN SMITH WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! COME VOICE ANY ISSUE, CONDITION, GRIEVANCE, OR CONCERN YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE HIM AWARE OF.

**LOCATION: 427 E BALDWIN AVE. | WEST HELENA**  
INSIDE HOPE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF 5TH & BALDWIN

# Communication & Transparency

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All Job Openings, CC Meetings, Budgets & Audits Posted online

First Ever Official Government Website: [www.hwh.ar.gov](http://www.hwh.ar.gov)

Coffee with the Mayor/ Mayor in My Neighborhood Events

Newspaper Column

Social Media Updates on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

Radio Interviews with local radio stations

Zoom broadcasts of City Council meetings

YouTube Channel featuring recorded City Council Meetings

City Council Broadcasts on KJIW



# The 2020 Results

Total Population: 9,519

2010 Census Population Count:

**12,282**

2020 Census Population Count:

**9,519**

23 %decrease in ten years

Pandemic, Politics & Process  
(recount)

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# MOBILE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC



Thursday,  
February 18  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## UAMS East — Helena

1393 Highway 242 South  
West Helena, AR 72390

The Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic is available to **pre-registered patients only**. No onsite registration will be allowed. There is **no out-of-pocket cost** to the patient. UAMS will administer the vaccinations. Please call 501-526-2211 to register.

Vaccinations are currently only available to individuals in the following phases:

- **Phase 1-A:** Healthcare workers, long-term care residents and staff, EMS, fire and law enforcement who serve as first responders and other high priority groups
- **Phase 1-B:** People age 70 years and older, teachers and school staff, child care and higher education workers (Please bring proof of employment for verification)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**UAMS Health**



Arkansas  
**BlueCross BlueShield**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



LEARN MORE:  
[uamshealth.com/coronavirus](http://uamshealth.com/coronavirus)  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) | [who.int](http://who.int)



# Covid-19 Pandemic: 2020-2022

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- Total Cause of Death Diagnosed as Covid-19 in Phillips County: 96
- Total Cases of Covid-19 Diagnosed in Phillips County: 4785
- Total %of County Population Fully Vaccinated: 52%
- Total %of County Population Partially Vaccinated: 10%
- Border Counties in Mississippi Substantially Higher, Arkansas border areas very similar to PC. Bolivar County (Rosedale), MS, for example, a total of 9264 cases and 175 deaths to date
- Official Reopening of City, May 28th (variant activity resurgence causes partial closure later). At this time, all mask mandates and related issues have ended.
- Multiple Vaccination Clinics Held in HWH
- Thank you Arkansas Health Department, Dr. Karen Hopper and Staff, UAMS East, Dr. Becky Hall & Staff, the Helena Health Foundation, the Helena Family Health Center (EAFHC), and especially the Helena Regional Hospital, UA Extension, HWH Schools & KIPP Delta, the members of my Covid-19 Pandemic Task Force, and of all our Health Care Providers. You are the heroes of this story!

# Money Matters

## SAVING THE CITY

On July 20, Mayor Kevin Smith of Helena—West Helena, signed and executed an agreement with the US Department of Justice that saves the City of Helena—West Helena over \$2 million in outstanding Federal debt, concluding an open-ended liability between the US Corps of Engineers Project and the city that has existed over the past 20 years. "In March 2019, I traveled to Washington, DC and began negotiations with the US Department of Justice to settle our city's debt to the Federal Government. This debt was approximately \$1.5 million, plus interest and penalties figured at approximately \$924,331," Smith said. "Today, I am proud to announce we have concluded this negotiation, saved the city \$1,124,809.32, plus the approximate total of \$994,331 in interest and penalties, for a total of \$2,119,140.32, been officially released from further off-sets on city

**Please see MAYOR on 2A**



In July, 2021, three years after my first trip to Washington to resolve this issue, I signed the final agreement with the US Department of Justice, saving our city over \$2 million in debt, from a debt that had been hanging over our heads for over 20 years.

In addition, this agreement removed the city from the Federal Offset program, which swept Federal funds placed into our accounts, and prevented the city from qualifying for additional Federal funding.



# Budget & Finance: Better & Stable...but

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- Budget for Fiscal Year 2022: Approved
- Base Pay Ordinance FY 2022: Approved
- Helena Port Authority Long Term Debt: \$418,399 (current on payments)
- Corps of Engineers & DOJ Long Term Debt: \$250,000 (current on payments)
- \$567,783.19 Less Rev (New Jail)
- Census \$ Loss – 26.74% estimated in less State Turnback \$, due to -22.5% less population)
- Completed Broadband Study with Winrock International, Committee Established (see pic)
- Initiated Wi Fi Pilot Project on Cherry Street (photo next)
- \$2.1 million DOJ Debt Eliminated
- \$1 million DOJ COPS Grant Awarded
- \$1.1 million Federal Recovery Act Funds
- Raises, Promotions, Bonuses – Employees
- 3% COLA FY 2021/4% COLA FY 2022
- Surplus \$193,130 Year End FY 2021
- \$704,690 Fund Balance Year End FY 2021
- Removed from State Audit Concern List
- Water & Sewer Company Issues
- Began ARBID Software, making it easier to get bids and track vendors for the first time (see following pic)

# AR Bid

Online Procurement System for Arkansas



## Welcome to AR Bid!

Pulaski County, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority, Central Arkansas Water, City of Conway, City of Helena-West Helena, and Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau have partnered together for your one stop shop for Procurement processes. Suppliers interested in doing business with any of these entities should register and obtain a user account. By registering with this application, you will receive email notifications of solicitations matching your companies commodity profile. There is no cost to register, access, and/or submit electronic bid responses.



*The City of Helena-West Helena  
now offers free WIFI  
(no password required)  
on blocks 100-400  
of Cherry Street.*

**This is open and free for all to use. Check the  
available WIFI connections, computer/phone.**

*Connect to*

***" City of Helena-West Helena "***

Rural Placemaker Innovation  
Challenge

Final Report and Recommendations

Helena-West Helena, Arkansas

May 28, 2021





# Public Safety Goal: To Feel Safe Again

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## HWH Police Department

- Six Homicides in 2021 – Down 50% Compared to 2019 & 2020
- 10 SkyCops, plus 2 Private SkyCops = 12 Total SkyCops
- New Fleet of Ten Police Patrol Cruisers
- Moved Into Criminal Justice Complex (outposts proposed Cherry & Plaza)
- Retirement of Chief James Patrick Smith, five years with HWHPD (25 total)
- Acting Chief James Mayfield Takes Command
- Promotional Process & Promotions – Lt. Wesley Smith; Sgt Carl Lee Nelson
- Federal/Local Cooperative Initiative Against Gun Violence – (see following pic)
- \$1 million US DOJ COPS Federal Grant
- TIP 411 Tested & Deployed
- Gun Buyback Event Held at Hays Parking Lot & Public Ceasefire Events
- New Body Cams
- New Radio Systems
- Events in DC and locally to honor the anniversary of fallen police officer Travis Wallace



Federal & City Partnership Results in Crack Down on City Gun Violence & Crime: US Attorney Jonathan Ross at City Hall (Above)

# Crime Report 2021: By the numbers (RPS Crime Reporting System)

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- Murder– 6
  - Kidnapping –20
  - Forcible Rape – 15
  - Robbery– 12
  - Aggravated Assault – 139
  - Simple Assault – 137
  - Intimidation –120
  - Arson– 15
  - Burglary– 126
  - Theft from Building – 25
  - Theft from Motor Vehicle – 22
  - Theft of MV Parts – 7
  - Theft of Motor Vehicle – 34
  - Shoplifting –68
  - Larceny (other)– 115
  - Forgery– 11
  - Credit Card Fraud – 7
  - Stolen Property Other – 4
  - Vandalism & Destruction – 164
  - Narcotics Violations – 77
  - Weapons Violations – 109
  - Animal Cruelty – 5
  - DUI– 45

Total Criminal Reports 2021 – 1,270





HWHPD Cont



DC Memorial for the Late Travis Wallace; Second Mobile SkyCam Arrives (grants written by Chief Smith)





The HWH Fire Department & Chief Roderick Brown:  
Achieving Excellence in Arkansas

# HWH Fire Department

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- Completed Fire Hydrant Inspection and Certification Program
- Increased Training and Education Requirements
- Completed Fire Dpt Portion of ISO Fire Rating Application to improve our fire rating and decrease insurance premiums
- Implemented Better Overtime System, Lowering Costs to the City
- Implemented Promotional Program with Raises
- Updated Radio and Communications System
- Updated Data Collection and Analysis System
- Continued support of Fire Academy Recruits and Mentoring
- 202 Public Service Events & Calls

# HWH Fire Department & Fire Rescue: 788 Calls

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## Helena Calls

Structure – 12

Car – 09

Grass – 10

Rubbish – 06

MVA – 08

Medical – 42

Alarm – 34

Public Service – 57

## West Helena Calls

Structure – 65

Car – 43

Grass – 35

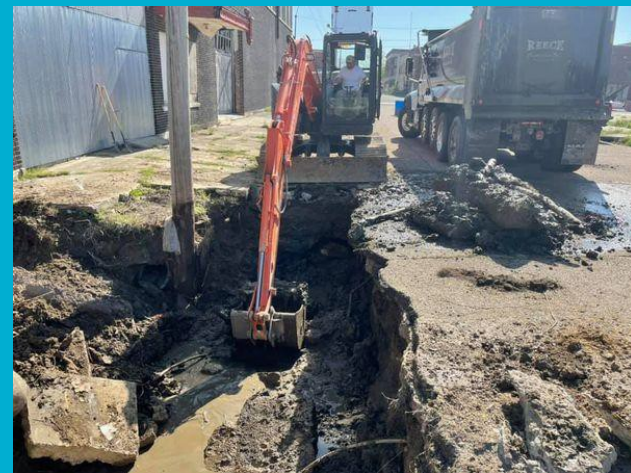
Rubbish – 37

MVA – 52

Medical- 176

Alarm- 157

Public Service – 202





# Public Utility -- Water and Wastewater

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- January 28th, Boil Order Issued for West Helena Water Users Due to Aeration and Filtration Issues with West Helena Plant
- February 15, Emergency Declaration, Winter Storm Conditions & Loss of Water Supply at Helena Plant, Boil Order
- February 23, Drinking Water Distribution to Customers without Water
- Repaired leak, cleaned out and inspected West Water Tank (services hospital, nursing home, Midland, Heights, etc)
- Repaired West Helena Water Aerator
- Ongoing Leaks & Sewer Breaks, Distribution Issues
- Completed certified inspections of 700 water and fire hydrants in HWH
- May, 2021 Installation of New Booster Station Helena (Part of Entegrity Project)
- First Solar Audit Reveals Solar Field Producing and Saving \$ as Projected (Entegrity Project)
- Repaired/Restored Backup Power Generator for Oakland Booster Station
- Repaired Helena Plant Leaking & Restoration
- Completed Update of West Helena and Helena SCATA Computer System
- Purchased ATVs for maintenance of sewer ponds and better access to Reservoir Hill
- Jeff Patterson Takes Over as Water Manager



# Public Works

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# Public Works: The Highlights

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- Purchase of first hot asphalt machine and truck to pull it for city projects
- Over 300 potholes filled since deployment of hot asphalt machine!
- Purchase and receipt of first new garbage truck in years
- Purchase and receipt of new trash containers for customers
- Over 20 houses demolished in 2021, and over 35 vacant lots cleared
- New Ditch Digger (mini-excavator with ditch digger attachment) purchased and delivered for storm water runoff and related projects to clean out ditches
- Animal shelter closed and cleaned-up as part of Co/City Animal Cruelty Case
- Helena River Park Clean Up
- North Helena Park Clean Up (Thank you HOPE Church Volunteers)
- Multiple City Emergency/Weather Activity



**VOLUNTEERS HELP CLEAR STREETS**  
**HELENA-WEST HELENA, AR**

Winter Storm 2021



# HWH Landfill: A Moneymaker

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- The city landfill is located on Storm Creek Road and, while owned by the city, is the State designated landfill for three counties: Phillips, Lee and St. Francis
- The HWH Landfill is governed in part by the East Arkansas Solid Waste District & the Arkansas Dept of Environmental Quality
- The HWH Landfill is one of the largest in Arkansas with area to grow in the future;
- Current permits allow for at least another 8 years of life, at current fill rates (other parts of the landfill will need to be requested for permit before that time period is up)
- Updated Equipment in Place (Dozer/Dump Truck)
- Paper Detail & Litter on Storm Creek Road
- 2021 Landfill Revenue: \$1,229,357
- 2021 Waste Tonnage Volume: 35,102 tons
- The landfill has opened a new area for dumping but is in the process of closing the older Class 4 area, which is 75% complete and should be finished by Summer, 2022
- The Wet Weather Road constructed in 2020 continues to provide relief for customers during high rain and muddy conditions
- Director Bobby Jones, Dpt Director (& Code Officer) Greg Williams, Engineer Phillip Fields, and all of the staff at the landfill maintain day-to-day operations on site



# Code Department Update

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- Illegal Dumping Enforcement – PW Director Bobby Jones (right) and Code Officer Greg Williams (left) receive State license to enforce both State & local illegal dumping laws inside HWH. This is a first. The first citation was issued within a week of being sworn-in by a State judge.
- New Code Officer Mimi Montoya Hired
- \$96,416 in revenue from enforcement of code laws, fines and fees, including 496 permits & 359 Occupational Licenses
- 55 blighted properties and lots cleaned up;
- Animal Control: worked with outside agencies to place over 400 animals and cleanup of closed facility (see more next)

# Animal Control

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- HWH has struggled with animal control issues for many years, and still does not have a city owned facility to temporarily house animals and maintain city codes and laws
- Meanwhile, in recent years, other organizations have tried their best to fill in the gap and respond to the tremendous need here, including Cathy Bissell and the Bissell Foundation, Leslie Galloway with Meals on Wheels, and many other hard working volunteers and organizations.
- In May, 2021 the Bissell Foundation held a very successful Spay/Neuter Clinic Walmart, where hundreds of animals and pets were prevented from adding to our problem.
- In October, 2021 an animal cruelty investigation, involving multiple jurisdictions and parties, resulted in the closing of a county location being used by a local shelter. The Animal Rescue Corps (with support of the Bissell Foundation), set-up at the facility, along with scores of volunteers from all over the region and country. They helped place over 400 at risk animals and cats in healthy and safe homes and shelters across the country, and also helped clean-up a very toxic and unhealthy facility. This case is pending, but the outpouring of support, plus the help of city employees, was truly astonishing and heart warming. Hundreds of animals were saved from wretched and life-threatening conditions.



BISSELL Pet Foundation in partnership  
with Humane Society of Tulsa:

# FREE SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

May 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>: Dogs Only  
May 12<sup>th</sup>: Cats Only

**Walmart Parking Lot**  
602 Shella St, West Helena, AR 72390  
No appointment necessary. Line forms at 7am.

Disclaimer: Do not give your pet(s) food after 12am (midnight) or water after 6am on the day you plan to attend.  
Your pets will also be fully vaccinated and microchipped.

\$10 Walmart gift card for any owned dog/cat that is brought to the clinic.  
\$25 Walmart gift card for any owned Pit bull that is brought to the clinic.

**DAILY PRIZES YOU COULD WIN!**

- Large Flat Screen TV from Walmart
- BISSELL® CrossWave® Pet Pro Multi-Surface Wet Dry Vac
- BISSELL® Pet Hair Eraser™ Lift-Off™ Upright Pet Vacuum

For questions or more information, contact: 918-209-5488

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®  
Until every pet has a home.

HUMANE SOCIETY  
of tULSA

WYNNE ANIMAL RESCUE  
WE SAVED LIVES DAILY



Animal Control in 2021 – A Few Photos

# Unemployment:

- January, 2019: 7.1 %Unemployed\*
- April, 2019: Down to 4.8% (Dragon Woodland, farm related, etc...)
- April, 2020: Up to 12.4% (Pandemic High)
- November, 2021: Down to 4.8% (Expansions, FedEx Program, End of Pandemic programs, etc...)
- November, 2021 Arkansas Statewide Rate: 3.1 %
- November, 2021 National US Rate: 4.2%

\*Source US Bureau of Labor Statistics – some rates are not seasonally adjusted at the time of publication

# Inflation: It's Back\*

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- Inflation has not been this high since 1982, in part due to Pandemic related supply chain issues, and the cash infusions into the economy by governments concerned about the Covid impacts on the economy.
- 2019 – US Inflation: 2.3 %
- 2020 – US Inflation: 1.4%
- 2021 – US Inflation: 7.0%
- 2022 – Current Inflation: 7.9%
- This high inflation rate means that the buying power of the US Dollar has declined, and costs of goods and services have increased. This makes it harder for the city to make ends meet, but also reduces the Real Wages of employees. This is why I have worked hard to watch our spending, so that the city can afford to stay within our budget, and also afford Cost of Living Increases (COLAs) for city employees, 3% in 2021, and 4% for 2022

\*Source – Consumer Price Index or CPI, US Department of Labor



# Economic Development: JOBS JOBS JOBS

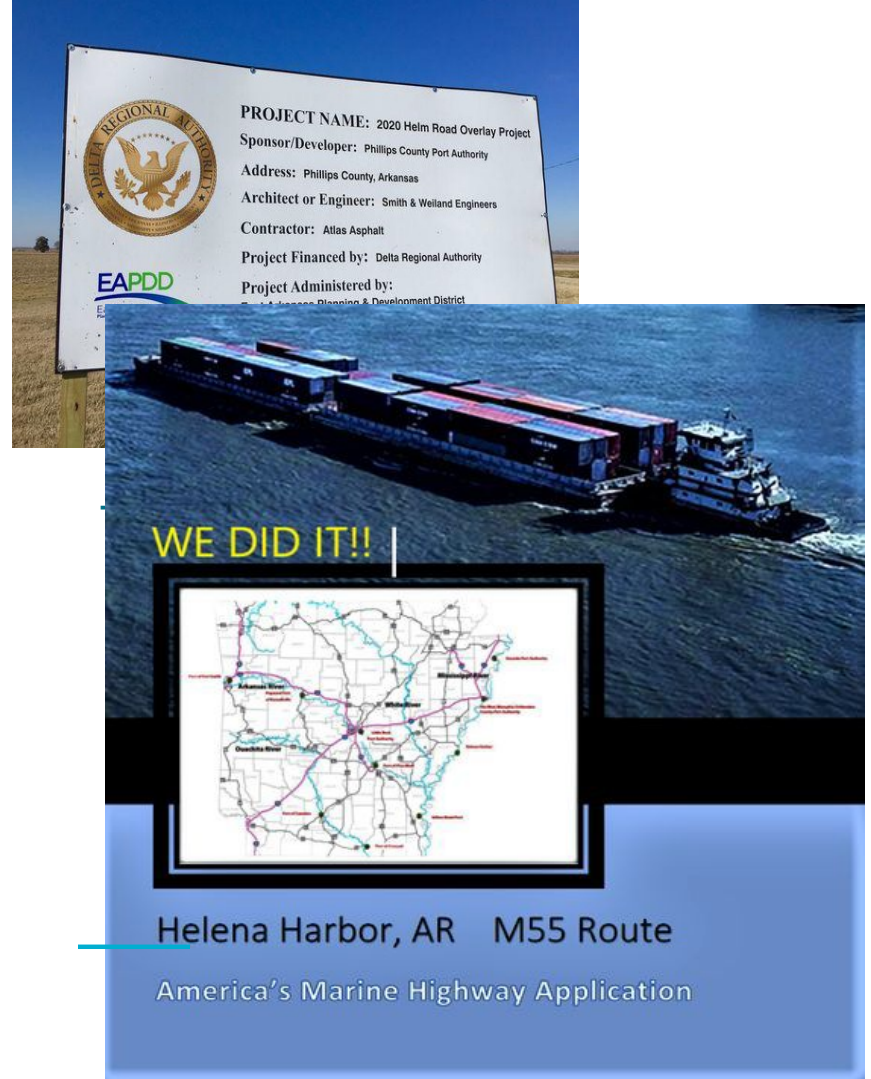
- The pandemic actually helped many of our local companies grow!
- Doughboy Pools (above ground pools), Envirotech (sanitizing products); Southern Hardware (wholesale hardware distributor) each saw increased sales & local expansions in 2021.
- FedEx Job Fairs & Transportation –Acting on a suggestion by a former resident, I started an initiative with both FedEx Air and FedEx Ground. At my request, both added HWH as a Delta location to recruit and provide free transportation to new employees. Estimates to date are that over 135 local residents are employed through this program.
- River City Connect Second Chance Program: in 2021, I began an initiative that came from Chief Smith and the Cottoms Racial Diversity Committee, to help potential employees connect with existing local programs and employers. It is already having success, and is run by Jarvis Smith for the city.
- New Business: Among many startups here are Suncrop Solar (Todd Dixon & Shannon); Free Arm Tube Feeding Assistant (Misti Staley); many more.





# Port Progress

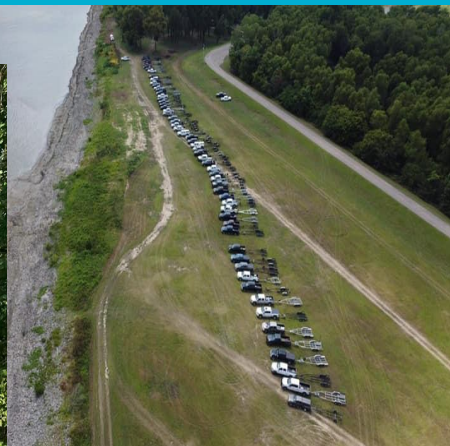
- 2021, the HWH PC Port is Designated as an American Marine Highway Project by the US Secretary of Transportation, making the port eligible for additional Federal funding;
- Phase One of the Helena Harbor Container Storage Yard Completed, allowing us to ship containers by barge by 2024
- HELM Fertilizer to expand due to newly paved road project
- Congratulations John Edwards!



The composite image consists of three main parts. At the top left is a white project sign with a gold circular logo for the Delta Regional Authority. The sign lists project details: PROJECT NAME: 2020 Helm Road Overlay Project; Sponsor/Developer: Phillips County Port Authority; Address: Phillips County, Arkansas; Architect or Engineer: Smith & Welland Engineers; Contractor: Atlas Asphalt; Project Financed by: Delta Regional Authority; Project Administered by: Phillips County Planning & Development District. Below the sign is an aerial view of a barge carrying several large containers on a wide river. At the bottom center is a framed map of the Helena Harbor area, showing the M55 route and various waterways. The text 'WE DID IT!!' is written in yellow above the map.

**WE DID IT!!**

Helena Harbor, AR M55 Route  
America's Marine Highway Application



2021 Riverfront: Steamboats & Catfish



# Parks & Tourism/ Advertising & Promotion

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- A&P Director, Chamber of Commerce Director
- Hunter Gardner hired as new A&P Director; Nancy McKee new Chamber Director
- City of HWH wins 2021 Arkansas Business “Trendsetter Award” for Best New Tourism Development for our “Big Fish, Big River, Big Fun” catfish fishing destination marketing campaign
- City is hosting growing number of successful nationally ranked fishing tournaments
- HWH as a national fishing destination promoted through Bill Dance Outdoors, an internationally syndicated and long-running TV show on the Outdoor Channel, as well as newspapers, radio, social media, and more
- Steamboat cruise lines return to Helena Riverfront After Pandemic Break
- Hollywood returns to HWH with filming of Paradise Highway w Morgan Freeman
- New non-profit formed for historic preservation and development
- Arkansas Arts Partnership returns to host new art gallery and competition
- “Tour da Delta” Bike Ride returns in September, 2021 (TY Chris Schaffhauser)
- Prestigious Arkansas Bike Trail Group Completes and Recommends HWH for stop on trail



Welcome Nancy McKee, newly hired Phillips County Chamber of Commerce Director (Left), and Hunter Gardner, Director of the HWH Advertising & Promotion Commission (Middle). Congratulations on Wendy's Reopen, ranked one of the best Wendy's in the country! (Right)

ARKANSAS DELTA ARTS PARTNERSHIP

# Art Competition Gallery

An art exhibit featuring art from around Arkansas and the Delta! One-of-a-kind art will be available to view and purchase.

OCTOBER 9TH, 2021  
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
DELTA CULTURAL CENTER- MILLER ANNEX

Immerse yourself in the creativity of Arkansas' finest talented artists & get a chance to purchase unique pieces. Join us for the competition reception at 5:00 PM.

Want to see your art in the gallery? Contact us on how to enter your art into the gallery for free at [adapmail@gmail.com](mailto:adapmail@gmail.com)

# PARADISE HIGHWAY CASTING CALL



## Catfish city

### Helena-West Helena event serves up monster catch

**BY BRYAN HENDRICKS**  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

HELENA-WEST HELENA — The mid-South portion of the Mississippi River showed why it is the nation's top destination for catfishing Friday and Saturday during the Helena 2021 Catmasters tournament.

During the event, 103 teams weighed in a total of 9,081.48 pounds. Friday was the better day, with anglers weighing in 5,116.54 pounds. Saturday's weight fell to 3,964.94 pounds.

George Young Jr. and Tim Pitts of Memphis won the event and \$15,000 with a blue cat weighing 65.74 pounds, the biggest fish of the tournament. They also earned an additional \$1,600. Thompson, Novotny and Trenton Thompson of Caruthersville, Mo., tied in 202.58 pounds for \$2,000. Their biggest fish weighed 61.87 pounds. Fishing third were Tutorow and Nick of Indiana with a 60.113 (55,000), followed by Dodd and Jonathan of Ripley, Tenn. (\$2,000). They caught a cat weighing 62.99 pounds on Friday to win and big fish honors \$1,000.

Bergland, Johnson and Eddie Henshaw caught a 61.19-pound cat, and Larry Maschino Meador caught a 61.03-pound cat.

"The biggest fish caught by a military veteran was a 61.03-pound blue cat caught by Stringer, a U.S. Navy veteran," said Young.

Pitts was the highest finishing youth angler, weighing in 156.08 pounds to win \$250.

Despite hot, humid weather, the fishing was excellent throughout the event.

Young said he found a 2 mph current and used his trolling motor to cut the drift speed in half. That means the bow of the boat is facing upriver as it drifts downriver.

"I keep bumping it along the bottom about 150 to 200 feet behind the boat," Young said.

Young said catfish move up and down on the ledges. They might be at 80 feet in the morning and at 40 feet in the afternoon. Sometimes the bites are vicious. Young said, and other times they are mere taps.

"It's always different," Young said. "Sometimes they just smoke your drag, but a lot of times it's a tap. If it's a big one, you can tell when you raise back, it's just dead weight. He's glued to the bottom. You reel down and pull again, and he doesn't move. That's when you know it's a good one. You turn the trolling motor off and drift back to him. You might pull him out of 60 feet and bring them to the top, but they'll smoke the drag and go back to the bottom. There's no stopping them."

Young said he fishes around Helena two or three times a year recreationally, and he fishes a couple of tournaments in the area annually.

He also shoots a TV show annually with Bill Daise, a well-known angler from Memphis.

The heat made this tournament unusually challenging, Young said, but he's rigged his boat to make it a little more tolerable.

"It's tough in that hot weather," he said. "I installed two big floor fans in the back of the boat with a little generator in front. Buddy, when I turn them on, it's a life-saver."

**Cam Pitts** had the highest weight caught by a female angler at the Catmasters catfishing tournament at Helena-West Helena on Friday and Saturday. (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Bryan Hendricks)

**Chad Bailey** (left) of Florida and Aaron Churchil of Georgia weigh in their catfish during the Catmasters tournament Friday. (Photo courtesy of [VidallHelenAR.com](http://VidallHelenAR.com))

That was partly attributable to the Mississippi River being low and slow, which enabled Young and his crew to use his bumping technique at slow speed along ledges to catch their winning weight.

Young said he uses cut skipjack on his own signature three-way rig. Young said he uses a 3-ounce

## More Photos from 2021 HWH Events





# City Wins 2001 Arkansas Tourism Trendsetter Award!



ARKANSAS BUSINESS  
TRENDSSETTER CITY  
2021

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## Tourism Development/ Creative Culture

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CITIES WITH POPULATION 5,000 to 20,000

Trendsetter City Awards **LIVE**

ARKANSAS BUSINESS  
TRENDSSETTER CITY  
2021

**HELENA-WEST HELENA  
WINNER**



# District Court

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- District Court Judge Jason Carter, recently elected, has created a new team at City Hall that is moving fast by updating technology and the court system to catch up to where they need to be as a court system for State, County and Municipal cases
- Judge Carter has begun to use community service as a way to allow those unable to pay fines to work off court and ticket fines
- Judge Carter and his staff have begun the process of digitizing court records by scanning them into computers systems that are backed up across the country in case of catastrophic issues at this location
- District Court staff members, and Judge Carter, are working hard to build a more efficient, more responsive, and more modern court for the public



# The Airport Commission

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- Cleanoff of Burned Out Hanger and Construction of Two New Hangers in the same space
- Hosted Fly-in Board Meeting of Arkansas Thunderbirds (reported live on KJIW) w help from new commission member Zipporah Mondy
- \$5 million Airport Runway Completion (Grant)
- Increased Federal & State Grant Funding
- The Future: Security Fencing, Hanger Funding, Self-Serve Island, Transportation Options, etc...
- National Trust for Historic Preservation designates Historic WWII Training Hanger as historic site.
- Great job Commission Chair Eddie Scheffler, Director Buff Brothers, Commission Members (and volunteer grant writer Johnny Broome!)



# Other Commissions & Other Issues

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Many of our other commissions have largely been inactive during the pandemic, and are just now resuming their meetings

Historic District Commission – Inactive

Planning Commission – Beginning to Meet

Helena Advertising & Promotion Commission – Meeting Again

Main Street Helena – Reorganizing & Meeting

The Phillips County Museum – Not a city entity but important & meeting

Thank you to all our local civic clubs, including Rotary, Kiwanis, and the Lions Club. Thank you to many wonderful non-profits, more than I can name, including especially THRIVE, HOPE Church, Together for HOPE, our food pantries, to all our churches and other non-profits who do so much, and also to the HWH School District, KIPP Delta, DeSoto Schools, and many others. Thank you to the Helena Health Foundation, the Phillips County Community Foundation, and so many more. Thank you to the Delta Cultural Center, for all the many things you do for us as a State Agency. You deserve our gratitude and acknowledgement for how important each of you are to our community. Thank you so very much for your passion and dedication!

Housing – Lots of exciting announcements for 2022 on the way!

Education – While the schools are not governed by the Mayor or City Council, education is incredibly important, and no achievement will be sustained until we get there on this issue.

Spotlight – Phillips Community College of the UofA was selected 7th Best Community College in Arkansas. Congratulations to the PC Team!

The DeSoto Thunderbirds Football Team won their conference State Championship!  
Congratulations Coaches and Players!!



# Vision -- What's New for '22

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Continue to Grow New Jobs and Opportunity for Everyone

Water & Sewer Issues Must Be Resolved

New Codes Must be Adopted & Blight Removed

Ditches and Roadsides Must Be Cleaned Out

New Housing Developments

Mississippi Riverfront & Downtown Must Be Better Developed

Convention Center/Historic Helena/Plaza District/Marina/Docking

Broadband & Wi Fi Must Continue to be Developed

Smart Investment of \$1.1 million in Federal Funds

Historic Preservation (Centennial Church, Cherry St, Plaza)

Better Marketing of local water resource to National Audience

Finish the job on crime, with more SkyCams and Fed/State Partnership

Arson & Fire Dpt – fire marshal to focus on arson and new fire truck



# How you can help? Volunteer! Run for Office! Do!



**It takes a team! Thank you city employees, as well as our partners who work with us every day to make our city a better place for all.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**