

State of the City Address

Mayor Shirley M. Washington

March 14, 2019

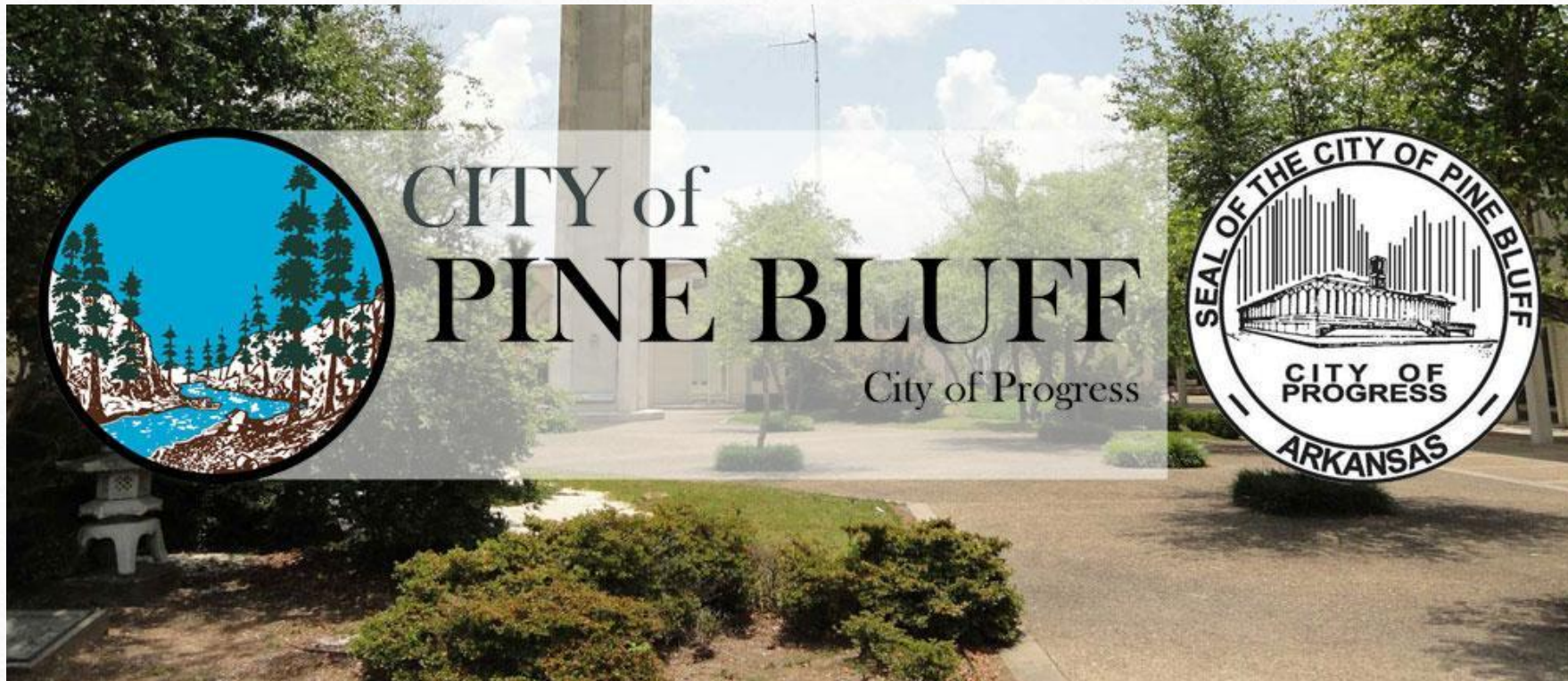


#ProgressinPineBluff



@CityofPineBluff

One Pine Bluff – Stronger Together



A Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending my State of the City Address. I am looking forward to sharing stories of progress in Pine Bluff and invite you to join us in 2019 to build a stronger city. It is my great pleasure to be working with you to build a Pine Bluff that we are all proud to call home.

In Unity,

Mayor Shirley M. Washington



Animal Control

2018 Accomplishments

- Provided education and training for staff members
- Brought in \$27,000 in revenue
- Developed partnerships with local schools, volunteers and student organizations from UAPB and Girl Scouts

2019 Goals

- Use social media, newspapers, television and radio to educate the public on responsible pet ownership
- Increase number of volunteers
- Host monthly events



Animal Control



2018 Accomplishments

- Conducted home visits to inform citizens on proper pet care
- Increased the number of permits for owners of restricted animals
- Decreased the number of stray animals

2019 Goals

- Reduce the number of stray animals through a spay or neuter program
- Increase pet adoptions
- Make animal control department more digitized

Buildings and Maintenance

2018 Accomplishments

- Maintained buildings and grounds
- Planted flowers and plants in all flower beds
- Acquired new equipment for lawn care



2019 Goals

- Recover from 2018 flood and hailstorm to Civic Center
- Remodel ground floor at City Hall
- Repair flood damage in fire department
- Install new roofs on Civic Center

Cemetery

2018 Accomplishments

60 spaces sold

21 cremations

115 traditional burials

2019 Goals

- Continue to provide quality service to all families
- Properly maintain the grounds
- Continue to plant trees

City Collector

2018 Accomplishments

Licensed 130
Businesses

Collected
\$765,000 in
occupation taxes

Collected \$5,000 from
businesses that owed
occupation tax

2019 Goals

- Ensure fairness in collecting city taxes
- Keep occupation taxes up to date
- Conduct site visits to businesses

Economic and Community Development

2018 Accomplishments

- Homebuyer assistance program helped 18 households purchase homes totaling \$1,305,700
- Protected 22 individuals from homelessness
- Completed 8 emergency rehabilitation projects totaling \$77,643

2019 Goals

- Open Aquatic Center and 601 Main Street Park
- Begin Merrill Center renovation
- Break ground on Streetscape Project

Finance

2018 Accomplishments

Implemented telephone changes that saved the City of Pine Bluff 20% from previous year

Administration of Flood Insurance Claim of \$785k

Standard & Poor's Bond Rating review - City A- rating

2019 Goals

- Benchmark other City Budgets for improvement opportunities
- Reduced time keeping errors
- Improve legal compliance
- Bring accountability to employee attendance



Fire Department



Responded to approximately
5,200 calls in 2018

Goal for 2019: fire
preventions in the city and
smoke alarm education



Fire Department

Fire Prevention Report 2018



Inspections	631
Fires Investigated	110
Smoke Alarms Distributed	151
Home Surveys	73
Burning Permits	240



Human Resources

2018 Accomplishments

Provided training to all supervisors

Handled appeals filed with the Administration and the Hearing Committee

2019 Goals

- Assist departments in developing employee operational manuals
- Implement new employee portal in order to streamline HR processes
- Collaborate with City Grant Writer to find grants for summer youth program

Human Resources

Summer Youth Employment Program

2018 Accomplishments

- 142 Summer Youth Workers
- 3 Full Time Youth Coordinators
- 1 Part Time Youth Coordinator
- 1 Senior Youth Coordinator
- 46 Job Sites

2019 Goals

Expand Summer Youth Employment Program to provide more jobs for youth ages 16-21

Information Technology

2018 Accomplishments

- Implemented New World upgrade
- Maintained existing IT infrastructure
- Added additional sites within the city

2019 Goals

- Expand network for Aquatics Center
- Acquire new Toughbook units for 50+ police car units
- Complete operation of 4G modems for police/fire vehicles

Inspection and Zoning

2018 Accomplishments

50 permits purchased and 27 new commercial projects completed



Aquatics
Center

Library

2019 Goals

- Ensure contractors and owners have proper permits
- Conduct extensive sweep for zoning violations

Parks and Recreation

2018 Accomplishments

Successful return of
Youth Softball
Avg. attendance 475
each Saturday

Saracen Landing
upgrades with fountain
and electrical LED
lighting



Completed Phase I
Coretta Scott King
Project to improve
erosion and drainage

Regional Park
Entrance Landscape
and Waterfront
Building Renovation

Completed Irene
Holcomb Dog Park

Parks and Recreation

2019 Goals

- Upgrade softball and baseball facilities
- Add play structures to splash park
- Upgrade RV Park to full hook up





Parks and Recreation Aquatic Center



Opening Summer 2019
Featuring

- 8 Lane Competition Pool
- Leisure Pool
- Water Playground
- Water Slide
- Therapy Spa
- Swimming Lessons

- Party Rooms
- Water Basketball
- Water Volleyball
- Water Aerobics
- Silver Slipper Classes
- Concession Stands

Pine Bluff Municipal Airport

2018 Accomplishments

The Black Pilots of America met for the 22nd year at Grider Field

Airport entrance marker installed at intersection of Highway 65 S and Grider Field Road

2019 Goals

- Construct a new parallel taxiway
- Host a membership drive for Grider Field on March 2nd and a fundraiser on June 25th





Pine Bluff Municipal Airport



2018 Accomplishments

Received Airport Improvement Program grant from the Federal Aviation Administration of \$165,635

New point of sale credit card machine and Avgas dispenser was installed

2019 Goals

- Begin work on asphalt project with grant from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics
- Complete upgrades to terminal including telephone and internet
- Install new roofs to fix hail damage

Code Enforcement

2018 Accomplishments

New procedure for
abandoned houses and
grass/weed compliance

Posted 1,100 lots on private
properties

Acquired new grass & weed
contractors

Organized citywide
volunteer cleanups



Code Enforcement

2019 Goals

Educate citizens on
maintaining their property up
to city codes

Engage citizens to assist with
efforts to keep the city clean

Focus on keeping vehicles and
personal property up to code



Before



After

Office of the Mayor

Projects

**Community
Cleanups**

Unity Breakfast

**Mayor's Youth
Council**

Grants Received

- **National Recreation and Park Association**
\$25,000 for the Community Garden
- **Arkansas Community Foundation**
\$5,000 to prepare backpack meals at the Merrill Center
- **Blue and You Foundation Grant \$25,000**
Community Garden
- **The Spirit of Blue Foundation Grant \$8,000**
Police Department
- **Litter for Good Company - Animal Control**

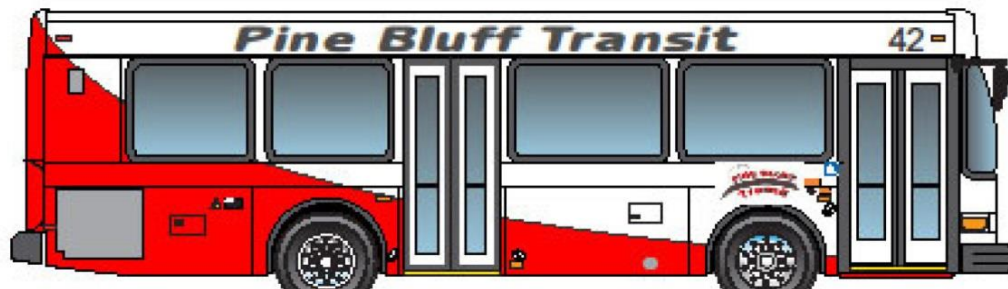


Pine Bluff Transit



2018 Accomplishments

- Supported the City's special events and festivals
- Installed new cameras for all Fixed Route buses



2019 Goals

Service more riders in ADA Paratransit with the addition of new buses

Provide better transportation to the citizens of Pine Bluff

Improve service and reliability with better software and maintenance.

Increase ridership by offering to more areas in the city

Pine Bluff Transit



Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility

2018 Accomplishments

Received award for 100% compliance over 9 years

Rehabilitated 22 manholes

Reduced stoppages in sewer systems

2019 Goals

- Construct a new Pump Station at Phillips Road
- Annual Sewer Rehabilitation Projects



Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility

2018 Accomplishments

Installed more efficient pumps at major lift stations

Added security fencing to protect pump stations

Began construction work at new \$3.2 million dollar Pump Station

2019 Goals

- Upgrade waste sanitation diffuser
- Improve treatment process for system





Police Department



2018 Accomplishments

97 neighborhood
watch meetings
1,542 attendees

\$4,958 of stolen
property recovered

Total value for
seized drugs
\$262,457.20

Reduced Crime
by 7%

Police Department

2019 Goals

- Reduce Crime
- Build partnerships with surrounding law enforcement agencies on the Federal, State and local levels

- Project Safe Neighborhood
 - Use resources of Federal Agencies to reduce gun crimes
- Crime Drug Task Force
 - Make controlled purchases and undercover agents to assist drug market investigations





Street Department

Accomplishments/ Goals

400 miles of
streets
maintained

Improve bridges
and city
infrastructure

Installed traffic
signs and
repaired 76 traffic
signals

Patched
Potholes with
145 tons of cold
mix



Urban Renewal Authority

2018 Accomplishments

Built capacity to demolish
condemned properties

Initiated demolition program in an
effort to eliminate blight

Implemented a campaign
to publicize agency efforts

Before



After



Urban Renewal Authority

2019 Goals

- Continue pursuing 100 condemned structures for demolition
- Strengthen partnership with community organizations including Neighborhood Watch
- Develop downtown incentive opportunities