

BANKS DIGGING IN

THREE BANKS BREAK GROUND IN ONE WEEK




FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
Where community comes first.


Simmons Bank


**Signature
BANK**

PLUS:

**AIRPORT UPGRADES
NEW PARKS
WALMART REMODEL**

DIRT TURNIN' TRIFECTA

SCISSORS AND SHOVELS ALL OVER TOWN

Groundbreakings and Grand Openings were everywhere during the final days of September. In one week, three Jonesboro banks broke ground on new branches, and a fourth had a Grand Opening. Leaders from Simmons, Signature Bank, Arvest, and First Community Banks donned hard hats or grabbed scissors for their events and smiled for the cameras.

"We're overjoyed. It's been in the works for probably over ten years," said Kent Bridger of Simmons Bank.

Simmons' new Jonesboro headquarters will sit on the same spot as the previous bank did for decades.

It's a \$12M project that will continue to enhance the resurgence of Caraway Road.

"It's really come full circle. Caraway Road is revitalized, and we are happy to be a part of it," Bridger said.

Signature Bank broke ground next, taking its turn to turn some dirt in downtown Jonesboro. Signature Bank's first stand-alone Jonesboro branch is going up on Washington Avenue, across the street from the former Jonesboro Sun building.

"Jonesboro is key for us," said Ryan Moore of Signature Bank, "We want to be a Jonesboro bank. It's an exciting start for us in Downtown Jonesboro. That's where Jonesboro started. That's where we want to start."

Ramsoms Construction is building the two-story building. Allison McDaniel of Signature says the plan calls for the completion of the new bank by August 2024.

First Community Bank broke ground on the latest project in Greensborough Village. The Batesville-based bank is putting its 35th branch and 4th in Jonesboro in the Hilltop development.

"This is something we've been waiting on for about a year," said Allen Williams of First Community Bank, "We've worked with the architect and the city to get the plans right to finally get it kicked off. We hope to be done with it in about a year."

Next door to the new First Community Bank site in Greensborough Village, Arvest Bank was using scissors instead of shovels. Arvest held a Grand Opening for its newest location. As part of the event, the Arvest Foundation made a \$15,000 donation to City Youth Ministries.



AIRPORT UPGRADE UNDERWAY

RUNWAY PROJECT TAKES OFF

Strengthening and construction of the main runway and taxiway of the Jonesboro Municipal Airport has begun. George Jackson, the airport manager, says crews are taking advantage of the dry weather to work on three phases of the project simultaneously.

The bulk of the project consists of adding asphalt to the runway and taxiway surfaces to strengthen them to accommodate larger, heavier aircraft. Jackson says installation of the additional asphalt by crews from White River Materials of out Batesville varies between four to eight inches.

Jackson says they hope to complete the runway strengthening in a few weeks and the rest of the project by the end of the year. This phase of the project does not include the lengthening of the runway. Jackson says that portion of the project should begin in 2025-2026. That phase of the project calls for an additional 600 feet of runway, changing the runway length from 6,400 feet to 7,000 feet.

Design work is ongoing for the new terminal. He says there is potential for FAA grants to help supplement the insurance payouts received following the March 2020 tornado to pay for a new terminal.



WAREHOUSE READY TO GO

HYTROL PROJECT OPENS IN OCTOBER

All of Hytrol's freight is now under one roof. The new Hytrol Distribution Center (HDC) in Jonesboro's E-Commerce Park is open for business. It took just over a year to complete the 150,000 SF facility.

Tony Sartin, Hytrol's Head of Logistics, says they are already loading all of Jonesboro's freight shipments out of the new HDC. The new HDC will house orders from the Jonesboro and Fort Smith locations. Sartin says that is determined by the number of orders out of each site. He says they ship between Jonesboro and Fort Smith twice daily on a Hytrol truck.

There are some items left on the punch list for Hytrol. Sartin says there is still some racking to install before the facility is fully operational. He adds they expect to complete everything by October 20th. That includes finishing up some outdoor signage.



HEALTHCARE NEWS

MORE WHITECOATS ON CAMPUS

In August, leaders at the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University handed out one hundred twenty new white coats to the incoming class of student doctors. The latest class is the eighth at NYITCOM.

The class is geographically diverse, with student doctors from 26 states. The largest share of those new students are from Arkansas, with 27.

NYITCOM's mission to provide more access to healthcare in Arkansas and other Delta states is paying dividends. According to the school, NYITCOM graduates practice medicine at St. Bernards and NEA Baptist hospitals and smaller communities all over the state.

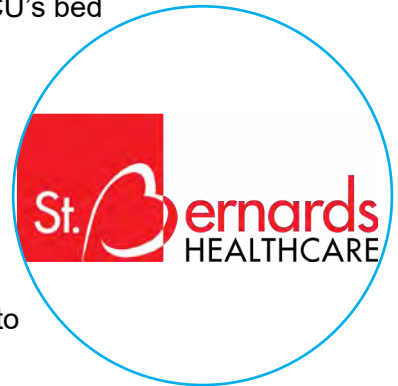


ST. BERNARDS EXPANDS NICU

St. Bernards expanded its NICU in August. According to St. Bernards, the addition increases the NICU's bed capacity by 20%.

The Luke Kellums NICU Fund, a local nonprofit organization started by Dustin and Callie Kellums, made the expansion possible. The Kellums started the fund to honor their son Luke, who died just weeks after a premature birth.

"We had wonderful care during our time in the St. Bernards NICU, and we wanted to do something to help parents and children in that same situation," Callie Kellums said in a press release from St. Bernards. "We were very grateful to have the NICU right here in our hometown, and we are honored to help it grow and expand."



St. Bernards' NICU can care for infants as young as 28 weeks and 2.2 pounds. St. Bernards says in its history, the NICU has cared for over 2,500 infants and their families.

NEA BAPTIST READY TO ROLL

NEA Baptist is taking health care on the road. The new NEA Baptist Mobile Health Unit will begin outreach to underserved communities in Northeast Arkansas in November.

The Mobile Health Unit will provide a wide range of healthcare services, from screening and preventative care to mobile mammography. Baptist says the goal is to take healthcare to those who need it most, the uninsured, and those who have difficulty traveling to receive reliable healthcare services.



The Mobile Unit was made possible through funding provided by Chris and Kim Fowler.

QUALITY OF PLACE

A NEW PARK FOR POOGHES

Jonesboro is doubling up on dog parks. Construction is about to begin on the city-owned, two-acre site on Highland Drive just past Jonesboro High School. A designated parking lot and a shaded sitting area are in the works for the project.

This plan coincides with the new multi-purpose path stretching from Culberhouse to SW Drive. Mayor Harold Copenhaver says he hopes the site will be going to the dogs by Spring. He's also asking for the public's help to name the new park. You can vote for your choice on the city's Facebook page.

EMOTIONAL DOWNTOWN DEDICATION

The new Union Street Park held a grand opening just in time for The Downtown Jonesboro BBQ Fest.

The park was almost two years in the making. A new pavilion is the centerpiece of the new pocket park. Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales says having a covered space will greatly benefit events like BBQ Fest and Joyfest. In particular, Kapales says the city's Winter Wonderland Skating Rink will move under the pavilion, allowing more people to skate regardless of weather.

The Grand Opening was an emotional one for Mayor Harold Copenhaver. The Jonesboro City Council and the City Attorney's Office surprised Copenhaver and his family by planting a tree and memorial stone in memory of Michael Nunnally, the Mayor's son-in-law. Nunnally passed away in April.

MORE PARKING AT CRAIGHEAD FOREST

Craighead Forest Park is adding a new parking lot at the entrance to the park. Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales says the new lot has 46 spaces for bicyclists and walkers to help reduce vehicular traffic in the park.

The project is part of the city's 2023 budget. Kapales says the completion of the new lot depends on the availability of asphalt.

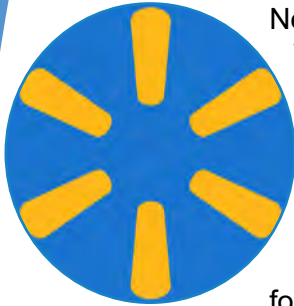
NEW LOOK FOR OLD "Y"

The facelift of the Jonesboro Pool and Recreation facility, otherwise known as the old YMCA on Nettleton, is complete. The city cut the ribbon on the \$1.6M project in mid-September.

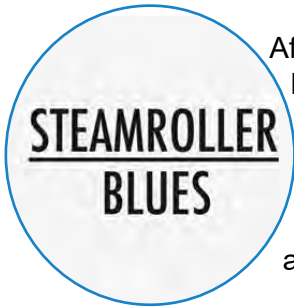
The big-ticket items in the transformation are the new floor for the basketball court and the indoor futsal field. Futsal is indoor soccer, played 5-on-5 in a smaller space. The game is fast-paced and high-scoring. The city also remodeled the locker rooms and the multi-purpose room.



COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT



New looks are on the way to both Jonesboro Walmart SuperCenters. Jetton Construction is currently working on the Highland Drive and Parker Road locations. Improvements include a new bakery, deli, and remodeled restrooms. Jetton says a new pharmacy is part of the plan for the Parker Road location. Work on both stores is scheduled for completion this fall.



After years on Nettleton, SteamRoller Blues has completed its move to Highland Drive. The high-end women's clothing store has opened up a new store in the UpTown. The new SteamRoller Blues is tucked in between Gearhead and The Buckle and is already open.



McDonald's is coming to Brookland. After months of speculation as to what was planned for the intersection of School Street and US 49, it was officially announced the corner lot will be the home of a new McDonald's.



1812 Pizza Company is adding a third Jonesboro location. Developer Haag Brown says the new pizza spot is moving into the UpTown right behind the new Refinery and Tommy's Car Wash and Texas Roadhouse.



Bank OZK is expanding into the Jonesboro market. The Little Rock-based bank is moving into the former Refinery location on Red Wolf Blvd. Bank OZK says they plan to open the new location in early 2024. It will be the bank's 76th location in Arkansas.



Roach Conveyors broke ground on its new 80,000SF distribution center in Trumann. The project is the centerpiece of Haag Brown's Steel Creek development. The 100-acre site is a lifestyle-focused, master-planned, mixed-use project along I-555 that will contain restaurants, stores, and single and multi-family housing.



Travel Centers of America is building a new truck stop on MLK Blvd. The locally-owned truck stop is on a 9-acre site across from Post. The truck stop includes a KFC and possibly another fast-food restaurant. Crews have already poured the concrete slab. Belk Contractors says they plan to be open in the Spring.



Jonesboro's competitive coffee scene added another player in August with the opening of Seven Brew Drive-Thru Coffee on Red Wolf Boulevard. The new location is the 24th in the state and the 143rd nationwide over 24 states. The chain started with its first location in Rogers.

TELLING OUR STORY

JONESBORO GETS ONE HOUR TV SPECIAL

Jonesboro got an hour of airtime throughout Central Arkansas in late September. KATV's ARTowns program broadcast a one-hour show from Craighead Forest Park on September 22nd. KATV features one Arkansas City every two weeks. The Jonesboro Tourism and Visitor's Bureau sponsored the program.

The show featured community leaders highlighting all our city has to offer. Mayor Copenhaver, Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales, and A-State Chancellor Dr. Todd Shields were some of the guests interviewed by host Ansley Watson. The KATV anchor said she doesn't want to make her first trip to Jonesboro her last.

"I would definitely come back to visit, especially when community events or festivals are taking place. Jonesboro knows how to throw a party!"

KATV brought a crew of four people to conduct all the interviews. Among them KATV Marketing Consultant Angie Wilson. She, like Ansley Watson said, she'll be back.

"I will definitely be coming back to Jonesboro, and I can see why my niece chose to live there after college!"

KATV also interviewed Sarah Doss, the Executive Director of the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance, FOA Director Michel Weewers, Dr. Shane Speights of NYITCOM, Amanda Herget from Gearhead, and A-State Athletic Director Jeff Purinton.

You can watch the show again on [KATV's website](#).



COURTHOUSE UPGRADE

MORE COURTS, GREATER EFFICIENCY

The Craighead County Courthouse Annex expansion began over the summer. In February 2025, Craighead County Judge Marvin Day says crews from Ramsons Construction should complete the \$14.4M project.

Day says two new jury-sized courtrooms are one of the many improvements of this project. Another addition is a community room that can be used as a storm shelter, another courtroom, or a new space to hold quorum court meetings. Day says crews are focusing on installing plumbing and pouring the building's foundation.

Day says the investment in the expansion will help the courts to be more efficient. Day says cases that require a jury trial will be brought through the court system quicker because of the additional space.



SALES TAX REVENUE

YEAR-TO-DATE, CITY AND COUNTY COMBINED (2.0%)

\$42.3M

5.8%

2023 / *jan
thru
sept*

○ Increase in collections over
2022. 16.5% increase over 2021

\$40M

10.2%

2022 / *jan
thru
sept*

○ Increase in collections over
2021. 27% increase over 2020

\$36.3M

13.8%

2021 / *jan
thru
sept*

○ Increase in collections over
2020

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

YEAR-TO-DATE 2023-2021



2023 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes 36 permits (\$69M) for new commercial construction



2022 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes \$63M in permits (16) for new construction



2021 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes \$101M in permits for new construction

Permit totals include: new construction, apartments, additions, alterations, & signs

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

YEAR-TO-DATE 2023-2021

2023 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes 193 permits for new home construction (\$26.2M)

395
Permits

\$48.6M

2022 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes 233 permits for new home construction (\$42.8M)

429
Permits

\$51.8M

2021 / *jan
thru
sept*

Includes 270 permits for new home construction (\$40.4M)

550
Permits

\$60.2M

Permit totals include: new homes, additions, alterations, duplex, storage, & swimming pools