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EVENTS CALENDAR

September 2006

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News

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

2025 still looking to complete projects

By Donna Hilton

Published: Thursday, September 21, 2006 11:29 AM CDT

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Although the 2025 Commission has been dormant for a few months, it will soon be active again, said state Sen. Percy Malone, who serves as chairman of the commission.

Formed in 1997 after a tornado struck Arkadelphia, the 2025 Commission was created by a legislative act to help rebuild and revitalize the areas of town that were damaged, Malone said.

The commission has already completed several projects, meeting goals to provide housing to persons displaced by the tornado and develop damaged areas. Among those are several housing units that were funded through the equity "buy down" program, which was administered by South Arkansas Development Corp. and the commission. One project funded through the program was Lucas Gardens, a condominium complex for clients of Group Living Inc.

Another completed project is the first phase of Streetscape, which redesigned the flow of traffic on Main Street from Sixth to Fourth streets. The second phase of Streetscape is among the projects remaining on 2025's to-do list.

Market Watch



Index	Last Trade	Change
NASDAQ	2260.06	10.99 ▲
SP 500	1334.14	7.77 ▲
Russ 2000	730.45	3.36 ▲
AMEX	1905.88	6.98 ▲
NYSE	8442.17	43.79 ▲
30 YR BOND	47.16	0.20 ▲

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"The money is available" for the second phase of Streetscape, Malone said.

One project that was not completed was the introduction of public transportation to downtown. The commission had acquired funding from the Federal Highway Department to purchase trolleys to be used in the downtown area. The money had to be returned when it wasn't used, Malone said. "There was no support for public transportation."

The commission will also be under the leadership of a new director.

Connie Nelson, director of the organization for many years, has resigned to take a job in Little Rock. She originally submitted her resignation several months ago, but has continued to work on 2025 Commission issues part-time.

Members of the commission have recently agreed to name an interim executive director until a permanent one can be hired.

Joyce Palla, part owner of Palla-Warner Antiques and Collectibles and former member of the Clark County Election Commission, has agreed to serve until another director can be hired.

Palla said she was still formulating her plans for the 2025 Commission and hoped to have more information at the next commission meeting.

Nelson said she will "continue to serve" as long as she is needed and will help Palla with the transition.

The 2025 Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Southwest Arkansas Technology Learning Center, 640 S. Sixth St.



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ONLINE POLL

A recent survey indicated that respondents found a weakness in local leadership. Do you:

Strongly agree

Agree

Strongly disagree

Disagree

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1976
1966