

The Sentinel-Record

Published daily in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, since 1877

Copyright © 2026, Sentinel-Record, Inc.

www.hotsr.com | @TheSenRec
#sawitinthesentinelrecord

Friday, July 10, 2026

Two sections, 16 pages
No. 191, Vol. 149 | \$2.00

Boarded up Park Avenue motel receives revitalization grant

DAVID SHOWERS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

The Hot Springs Board of Directors approved an agreement Tuesday night that would provide \$750,000 in federal funds to turn an old Park Avenue motel into affordable housing for artists.

The city recommended Bellaire Apartments, 637 Park Ave., for the \$750,000 National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant. The boarded up and vacant building was one of seven applicants

for funding from the program, which the city joined to help expand low- to moderate-income housing. The city set a deadline of Aug. 29 of last year to apply for the funding cycle that opened in May of last year.

Under the agreement, the owner must repay all or part of the grant if the eight craftsman bungalows do not remain affordable housing for a period of 15 years. The units must be rented to people earning no more than 80% of the area median income. According to the agreement, that was

\$40,950 for one person in 2025.

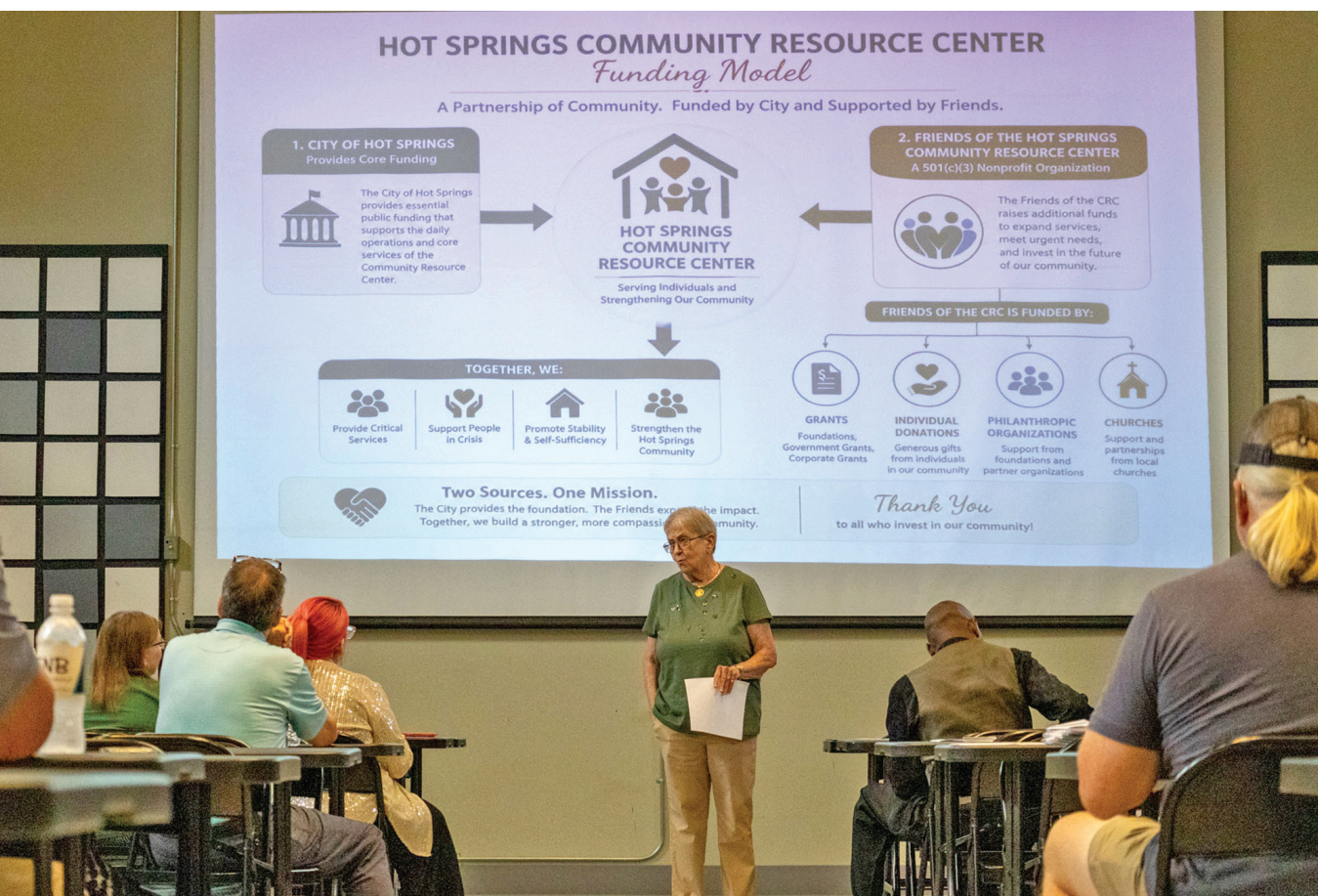
A preservation easement granted to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program requires the owner to retain the property's historic character.

The owner will ask for grant money by sending invoices for reimbursement. Invoices received after May 1, 2028, cannot be paid back. The owner will provide \$694,350 in matching funds, which include \$428,175 in state historic rehabilitation tax credit.

See **GRANT**, Page 3A



The Bellaire Apartments bungalows fronting Magnolia Street are shown. (The Sentinel-Record/David Showers)



Friends of the Hot Springs Community Resource Center Board Chair Sally Carder discusses the history of the facility Thursday afternoon with members of the community. (The Sentinel-Record/Thomas Buckman)

CRC: \$5.6 million in savings to community in first year of service

JAMES LEIGH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

The Hot Springs Community Resource Center helped 560 individuals and families with "critical housing stabilization services" over its first year of operation, the organization announced Thursday afternoon.

Ryan Kaundart, the program director for the CRC, said the facility and its partner organizations provided utility assistance, rapid rehousing or rental deposit, and homeless prevention services, which provided an estimated savings of \$5.6 million to the community.

According to information presented Thursday, an estimate of \$10,000 per household in public cost avoided.

See **CRC**, Page 3A



A slide from Ryan Kaundart's presentation on the cost avoidance analysis of the Hot Springs Community Resource Center shows some of the key numbers from the facility's first year of service. (Submitted photo)



The most powerful conical Tesla coil that is on public display, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is shown at the Mid-America Science Museum. (The Sentinel-Record/Paige Pemberton)

MASM celebrates Nikola Tesla's 170th birthday Saturday

PAIGE PEMBERTON
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

Mid-America Science Museum will host their annual Tesla Fest on Saturday in celebration of Nikola Tesla's 170th birthday.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and entry will be included in admission to the museum, located at 500 Mid America Blvd.

Guests of all ages are invited to partake in the day's festivities, including interactive activities and demonstrations.

Anyone who dresses up as their favorite scientist will receive a free Tesla button. To honor Tesla's 170th, the 170th person who comes in will win a special swag bag of Tesla-related items.

See **TESLA**, Page 3A

THIS WEEK IN HOT SPRINGS HISTORY

Parking dispute sparks brawl with police, city celebrates July 4

EDITOR'S NOTE: "This Week in Hot Springs History" is an ongoing feature by The Sentinel-Record that revisits moments from Hot Springs' colorful past as detailed in the daily newspaper. Similar to the "Today in History" feature, which focuses on national and international events, this will recount events that occurred in Hot Springs at different periods throughout the past. Today features excerpts from stories that appeared 100 years ago the week of July 4-10.

STEVEN MROSS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

In the Sunday, July 4, 1926, issue of *The Sentinel-Record* it was announced that since the holiday fell on a Sunday, it would be celebrated on Monday with "local stores and banks" to remain closed and the local bath houses to close at noon.

A "special water festival" was to be held in Fountain Lake that was to be "the largest



Students and staff at Central Public School, located at Oak and Orange streets, gather for a group photo in 1924. There was concern in July 1926 about the possibility of Garland County losing funding because all students in the county had not been properly counted yet. (Courtesy of Garland County Historical Society)

ever attempted in this region of the state," which would feature a "noted circus headliner in aquatic sports," who would be bringing his "water circus."

There would also be swimming and diving contests, dancing "afternoon and night," and a big display of fireworks.

Dewey Campbell, manag-

er of Riverview Park on the Ouachita River, also had several added features planned at his establishment "to assure him of liberal patronage." The article noted new boats for "fishing, swimming or boating" had been built along with a "big new shoot that gives the best of thrills." It was also noted that "autoists need not fear the dust, for the road to the park has been thoroughly oiled, therefore eliminating the inconvenience of dust."

There were fireworks shows planned for Whittington Park after the baseball games being held on Monday. The article notes that Police Chief William Brandenburg was calling for a "Safe and Sane" celebration, so the "discharge of firecrackers or fireworks of any kind within the limits of the city" was forbidden.

In the same issue, an article states "one of the largest crowds in the history of Como Square"

See **HISTORY**, Page 2A



Lake Hamilton Fire Chief Doug Davey, far right, and other firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a mobile home at Thunder Road and Argie Lane Thursday morning. (The Sentinel-Record/Peyton Johnson)

LHFD responds to structure fire on Thunder Road, initial reports of people trapped found to be untrue

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lake Hamilton Fire Department personnel battled a fire at a mobile home Thursday morning, initially being told four people were trapped inside, but soon learned the sole occupant inside at the time had gotten out.

Shortly before 9 a.m., the LHFD was dispatched to the intersection of Thunder Road and Argie Lane

See **FIRE**, Page 3A



To subscribe call 501-623-2510 or to place an advertisement, call 501-623-7711

Community Classified/public notices Sports Obituaries

5A Stocks 7B Viewpoints 1-4B Metro 6A Features

4B 7A 3A 5B

Sign up for our newsletters Get the latest news and special offers from The Sentinel-Record delivered to your inbox daily. Click here to sign up: <http://bit.ly/3uuJnnY>

