

# THE PULSE OF PINE BLUFF

## The Heart Beat of the City

Volume 2, Issue 2  
February 2015

### STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS AT TOWN HALL FEBRUARY 23



The Mayor will hold the first Town Hall Meeting of the year on Monday, February 23rd, located at the Pine Bluff Convention Center's main banquet hall at 5:30pm. It is at this time Mayor Debe Hollingsworth will deliver the State of the City Address. All

are urged to attend this month's Town Hall Meeting to become informed of the current state of our city and the future plans for economic and municipal growth. During the Address the Mayor will outline departmental change and growth, the status of various city projects, as well as, the projections for our community this year.

The Mayor will also summarize the results of the "Listening Tour," campaign, held throughout the month of January. The information which was gathered will assist in formulating a 3 year and a 5 year plan for our city.

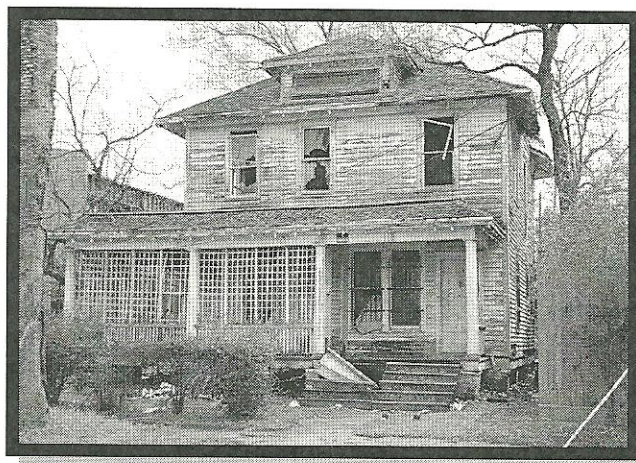
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### THE SAFE TEAM GEARS UP FOR SPRING

The Support Abatement with Fines and Enforcement Team or SAFE Team assists city officials in monitoring concerns of the community and consists largely of many individuals and city officials, including the Mayor's office, the Police Department, City Inspection and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Street Department, Waste Management, members of the Crime Advisory Committee, Citizen's On Patrol, the Landlord's Association, and at times the State Department of Community Corrections. These are just a few of the groups who have made themselves available to monitor and assist in troubled and disadvantaged areas within the City of Pine Bluff.

The impact of allowing a nuisance site to continue unabated affects not only property owner, but also other adjacent properties and resi-



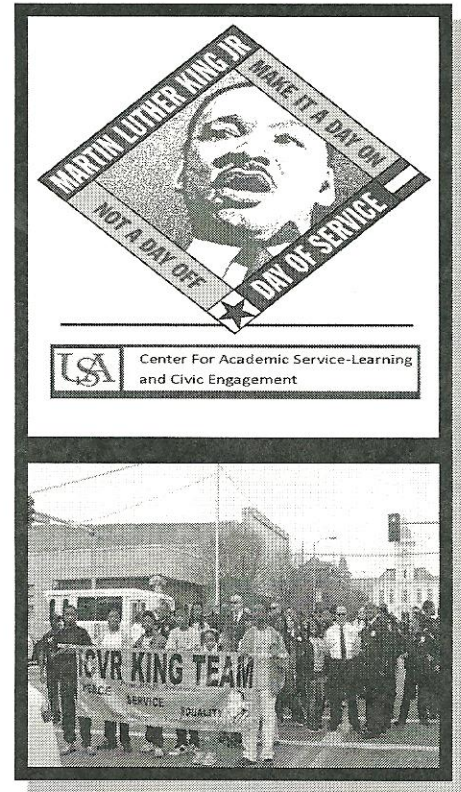
dents of the neighborhood. Moreover, it elevates the crime rate in that area. The SAFE Team will be strategizing and formulating a plan for the next region they will visit on March 11, 2015. The focus of this collective is to encourage our community to take pride in their neighborhood and ultimately their city. With spring right around the corner, outside activities and visitors will increase, making the clean up and beautification of this great city first and foremost on our list.

- State of the City Address
- SAFE Team
- Mayor Hollingsworth Reports
- MLK Day Parade
- Townsend Park
- Babe Ruth Hall of Fame

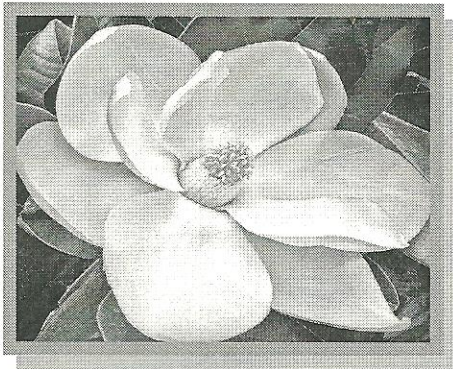
## MLK DAY PROUDLY OBSERVED

The 31st Annual ICVR KingFest was held January 15-19 of this year. Thanks to the selfless effort of Executive Director Rev. Jesse C. Turner, the Pine Bluff celebration has become the largest in the state and honors the legacy of slain Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. KingFest promotes interracial cooperation, community service and mentoring. The 2015 theme was "Faith in Justice Produces Stronger Communities." The ICVR Pen or Pencil youngsters took the lead in Arkansas to build relations with Law Enforcement as they invited the Pine Bluff Police Department to be their special guest in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Marade (March/Parade). During their regular meetings youth were instructed on how to respond to

law enforcement in a positive way. Their three step response consisted of 1.) SHOW RESPECT — Showing respect means you will receive respect, 2.) COMPLY — Cooperation fosters trust in an individual, and 3.) BE HONEST — Lying or deception will ruin credibility with an officer. It was emphasized that Law Enforcement is a stressful and dangerous job and Police must approach even the most routine traffic stop with the utmost caution and care as it could quickly become a hazardous, or even fatal situation in seconds. ICVR KingFest saw at least 1,000 participating youngsters at this years event, which included approximately 450 at the First Missionary Baptist Church during Friday nights Youth and Young Adult Gospel Extravaganza.



## MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH REPORTS:



With the "Listening Tour" presently behind us, we are now able to prioritize the concerns of our city by understanding the heart and passion of our people. On February 23, 2015 I will be reporting on the state of our great city. As the Mayor's office and the City Council gathered information from this campaign we began to build a bridge, focused on a forward progressive future for our community. It is this magnitude of enthusiasm, coupled with

knowledge, which moves mountains and affects positive change. As we press toward the mark of our common goal; a beautiful Pine Bluff, let us join together uniting our energy, which is driven by passion, moving our city forward into the "New Direction."

*Mayor Debe Hollingsworth*

## RIDGWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL

Diedre Young, science teacher at Ridgway Christian High School, is one of 3 teachers from across the nation chosen to participate in NITARP 2015 (NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program) and the first teacher from Arkansas to be a part of this course. Young, plus three of her students (Margaret Reginio, Joy Byrd and Jaicie Chesier) will be spending the rest of the school year, this summer and this fall researching the luminosity of Black

Holes with a JPL Astronomer Mentor and will present their results at the 2016 AAS Conference in Kissimmee, Florida. NITARP partners small groups of educators with a research astronomer for this year-long project. This program pays for Young and two of her students (Byrd and Reginio) to fly to Pasadena, CA in June for a week long intensive training session on Astronomical Research at Cal Tech University and the Jet Propulsion Labora-



The program also pays for Young and two of her students to attend the AAS (American Astronomical Society) meeting in Florida in order to present their findings.