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# News Release

## Beautification and Tree Advisory Board judging contest winners

*Board also considers holiday yard awards; winners get Steamy Joe coupons*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (December 7, 2016) — Contest entries are closed now for an Arkansas City High School senior's service project contest that involves painting several benches in Wilson Park.

ACHS student Hannah McNulty said a committee comprising ACHS students and faculty, as well as three of the Arkansas City Beautification and Tree Advisory Board, will select the winning proposals.

If given permission by the board to paint a bench, each local artist will be able to arrange a time to pick up the bench from the Parks and Facilities shop, and transport it to his or her studio for painting.

The contest was part of McNulty's project for a senior leadership class at the high school. For more information about the contest or project, email McNulty at [painting.park.benches.question@gmail.com](mailto:painting.park.benches.question@gmail.com).

The names of the winners and their designs will be released at a later date.

### Yard of the Season awards

The Beautification and Tree Advisory Board met Nov. 30 at Steamy Joe, 216 W. Central Ave., to select winners of this month's Nelson Sensation Award and Yard of the Season awards.

Although the Nelson and two Yards of the Season were awarded, there remain several weeks available to honor yards with spectacular holiday decorations and lights.

The board urges citizens to nominate their neighbors' yards by emailing the address — and, if they like, a photo — of the yard to Andrew Lawson at [alawson@arkansascityks.gov](mailto:alawson@arkansascityks.gov).

Each winner will receive a certificate from Steamy Joe, redeemable for one free specialty coffee.

**For immediate release**

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The board will meet again at noon Thursday at Steamy Joe to consider the remaining nominations and vote on the rest of the Yard of the Season awards for December.

**In other business Nov. 30, the board:**

- Voted 3-0 to move its December meeting from Dec. 29 at City Hall to Dec. 15 at Steamy Joe.
- Briefly reviewed its bylaws and general provisions in Arkansas City Municipal Code. There will be more discussion on the bylaws at the next regular meeting.
- Heard an update on the adoption and restoration of the lion statue at Paris Park by the Early Bird Lions Club. The statue was transported Dec. 2 to a stone carver's studio in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where it will remain for several months as he works to restore the face and paw.
- Discussed goal-setting and strategic planning for 2017, as well as possible budgeting for 2018.

Board members present at the Nov. 30 meeting were Richard Humphrey, Peggy Soule and Jill Wineinger. Bob Foster and Candace Stephens were absent.

**In other business Nov. 17, the board:**

- Voted 3-0 to schedule a special meeting at noon Nov. 30 at Steamy Joe.
- Discussed a new timeline for McNulty's senior service project and the bench painting contest.
- Discussed the concept of "circles" as they relate to coalition building and beautification efforts.
- Reviewed the official resolution for the adoption of the City-owned parking lot at A Street and Central Avenue by the Ark City Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Friends of the Burford.
- Discussed ongoing problems with pigeons in downtown Ark City. But there is nothing the board or City can do because pigeons are wildlife regulated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Citizens may contact KDWPT for a list of businesses that can assist them.
- Voted 3-0 to approve the adoption of the lion statue at Paris Park by the Early Bird Lions Club.
- Discussed starting to plan in May or June 2017 for a Veterans Memorial Lake cleanup project.

Board members present at the Nov. 17 meeting were Foster, Humphrey and Wineinger. Soule and Stephens were absent.

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