

AMAZON ON ITS WAY

LAST-MILE FACILITY ANNOUNCED FOR JONESBORO



PLUS:

TEKSTARZ MANUFACTURING CAMP
SURGERY EXPANSION OPENS
NEW BIKE TRAILS & POOL



JONESBORO
UNLIMITED

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT REPORT
2ND QUARTER 2024

AMAZON

LAST-MILE FACILITY ANNOUNCED FOR JONESBORO

Amazon has entered into an agreement for a new 58,000-square-foot last-mile facility in Jonesboro located on Moore Road. Last-mile facilities are the final stops in Amazon's transportation network before packages are delivered to customers' doorsteps.

"This last-mile facility will allow us to better serve customers in Jonesboro and the surrounding area," said Jessica Breaux, senior manager of economic development for Amazon. "We're grateful for our partnership with the Jonesboro Chamber and the City of Jonesboro. We look forward to sharing more details about this facility and the good jobs we'll offer in the future."

Amazon currently employs around 4,000 people in Arkansas and has invested \$1.9 billion in compensation and infrastructure in the state since 2010. Most hourly employees in customer fulfillment and transportation earn between \$17 and \$28 per hour.

"We appreciate the investment Amazon is making in Jonesboro and the confidence they have in our City and Craighead County, said Mark Young, President and CEO of Jonesboro Unlimited and the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Their announcement acknowledges that Jonesboro is a great place to do business! I appreciate the partnership with Haag Brown to make this important project a reality for our community."

The facility is just one more signpost in the future growth of the city and region.

"Amazon's investment in Jonesboro reflects the strength of our economy and their confidence in our future growth and prosperity," said Mayor Copenhaver. "This project illustrates the importance of our partnership between the City, the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and private developers."

Launch plans and renovations to the existing building are in the early stages of development.



TEKSTARZ

MANUFACTURING CAMP GIVES STUDENTS INSIDE LOOK AT INDUSTRY

Jonesboro Unlimited's TekStarz Manufacturing Camp was held June 11-13 and took 15 local junior high school students on a three-day tour of various industries. The camp nurtures a positive outlook toward manufacturing, inspiring students to seek careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), while cultivating a creative and entrepreneurial spirit.

Seven manufacturers participated including Best Manufacturing, Frito-Lay, Nice-Pak, TrinityRail, Ritter Communications, Unilever, and Hytrol. Facility tours gave students an idea of what a STEM career could look like for them one day, and hands-on activities kept them engaged in the learning process.

They also used simulators provided by Be Pro Be Proud to learn what it is like to operate heavy equipment, drive trucks, trains, and test out skills like welding through virtual reality. A family reception was held on the final day with a keynote by Sammy Waller of Post Foods and the presentation of certificates.



QUALITY OF PLACE

BIKE TRAILS OPEN AT CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

On April 23, the City of Jonesboro cut the ribbon for over 13 miles of soft surface trails. This new amenity sets Jonesboro up to be a mountain-biking and trail-riding destination, adding to the city's quality of life.

"As Arkansas is known as 'The Natural State,' it is fitting for Jonesboro to have its own soft surface trails for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy," stated Mayor Copenhaver. "The trails provide growth in Jonesboro's quality of place as well as creating more opportunities for tourism to Jonesboro, a beacon within Northeast Arkansas."

The funding for this project was an investment of \$500,000 from the City of Jonesboro, with an additional grant of \$301,000. The design of the project and cost for the study were shared between Jonesboro Unlimited and the city as a partnership to aid future growth.

"The soft surface trail usage has created a great increase in out-of-state license plates in addition to increasing trail usage as a whole," said Danny Kapales, Director of Parks and Recreation. "We are looking forward to hosting more out-of-town guests as they discover the trails in Craighead Forest Park."

Since the system's soft opening last fall, it has garnered glowing reviews as an enjoyable course for all skill levels. Difficulty ratings are provided for each trail on signage.

The latest investment in quality of place amenities coincides with various investments in cycle and pedestrian infrastructure around the city in recent years.

NEW SWIMMING POOL AT PARKER PARK

Just in time for summer, the City of Jonesboro opened their new swimming pool in June at Parker Park on the Northside. It is the first time since 1979 that the city has built one apart from the Jonesboro Pool Center in Westside.

The pool contains a diving board, slide, jacuzzi, and shaded seating area among other amenities. The project cost was \$2.9 million.

According to City of Jonesboro Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson, there was a desire to locate a pool to an underserved community, and it helped having existing utilities at Parker Park Community Center already. The new pool will serve as a model for possibly more to come, and it is also hoped to bring business to Northside.

"We're encouraging people to invest in that area, doing all that we can to serve the youth and provide them with recreational and personal growth," said Richardson.



HEALTHCARE NEWS

ST. BERNARDS OPENS \$7M SURGERY EXPANSION

St. Bernards Medical Center celebrated the completion of a \$7 million surgery expansion on April 23, adding three new surgical suites and shell space for a fourth. The expansion marks the first major surgery investment since 2019, when the hospital opened a 245,000-square-foot Surgical and Intensive Care tower. With the additional surgical suites, St. Bernards has access to nearly 30 hospital and outpatient-based surgery rooms that house numerous surgical specialties.

Joshua Tolleson, M.D., Chief of Surgery at St. Bernards, said the hospital performs about 10,000 surgical procedures each year.

“We have a growing need for more surgery space, especially as our population ages and we see more elective procedures,” said Dr. Tolleson. “These new operating rooms enhance our capability to perform a large variety of cases with the latest technology available.”

That technology includes robotic surgery options, where St. Bernards Medical Center remains a leader in the state of Arkansas with its advanced options. The new suites give surgeons more rooms to perform these innovative procedures. Of note, robotic surgery can help surgeons operate with even higher precision, which in turn, may allow patients to heal faster with less pain and scarring. Still, Connie Hill, St. Bernards Vice President of Surgery, Emergency and Heart Care Services, said additional space and technology mean little without an expert, cohesive team to use them.

Generous donations, including those made by one of the hospital's largest volunteer groups, St. Bernards Advocates, helped offset the project's overall cost. St. Bernards Medical Center Administrator Michael Givens called the opening a “community project.”

NYITCOM AT A-STATE COMMENCEMENT & HOODING CEREMONY

New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University celebrated its Class of 2024 commencement and hooding ceremony on May 24 at First National Bank Arena. It recognized 113 medical students who completed their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. The NYITCOM at A-State Class of 2024 arrived in Jonesboro in 2020 as the college's fifth class.

The ceremony was led by New York Institute of Technology Executive Vice President & C.O.O. Jerry Balentine, D.O., NYITCOM Dean Nicole Wadsworth, D.O., and NYITCOM at A-State Dean Shane Speights, D.O. In addition, 19 graduates were also recognized for completing the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences program.



COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Jonesboro tees off with a new era of golfing fun with the grand opening of Divots Golf Lounge at Greensborough Village! The indoor facility allows for entertainment and practice.



Potbelly Sandwich Shop opened its third Arkansas location at 1853 E Highland Drive. The national chain started in a Chicago antique store in 1977.



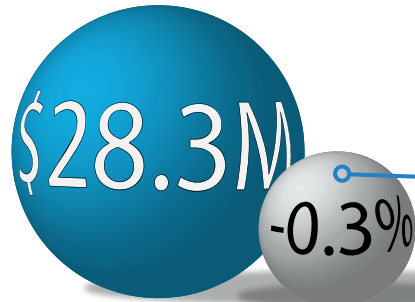
The highly-requested Panda Express will soon be coming to Jonesboro! It will be located at Fair Park Boulevard behind First National Bank and across from Lowe's.



Sport Clips Haircuts has opened their third Jonesboro location at the Wolf Creek Shopping Center near the corner of E Johnson Avenue and Airport Road.

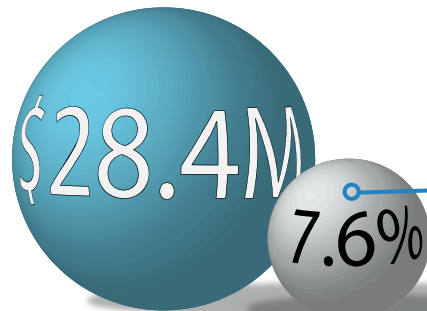
SALES & USE TAX REVENUE

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



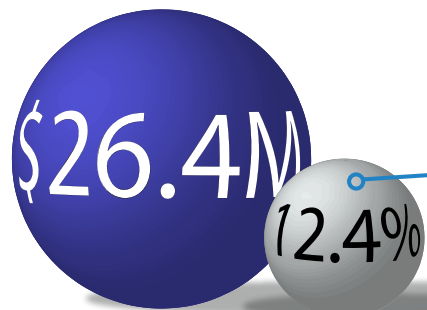
2024 / *jan thru june*

Decrease in collections over 2023. 7.3% increase over 2022. However, city sales tax collection for May ranks highest among state's 10 largest cities year-over-year in percentage improvement. Combined monthly sales tax distributions for May (March sales) came in at \$4.1 million.



2023 / *jan thru june*

Increase in collections over 2022.



2022 / *jan thru june*

Increase in collections over 2021.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

YEAR-TO-DATE 2024-2022



2024 / *jan thru june*

Includes \$11.9M in permits (9) for new construction.



2023 / *jan thru june*

Includes \$35.5M in permits (24) for new construction.



2022 / *jan thru june*

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

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

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

YEAR-TO-DATE 2024-2022

2024 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 158 permits for new home construction (\$32.4M).

269
Permits

\$39.7M

2023 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 135 permits for new home construction (\$26.2M).

271
Permits

\$32.6M

2022 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 160 permits for new home construction (\$31.6M).

296
Permits

\$37.5M

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

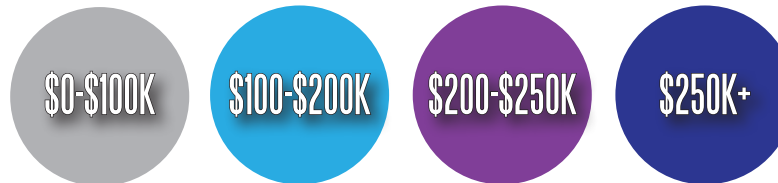
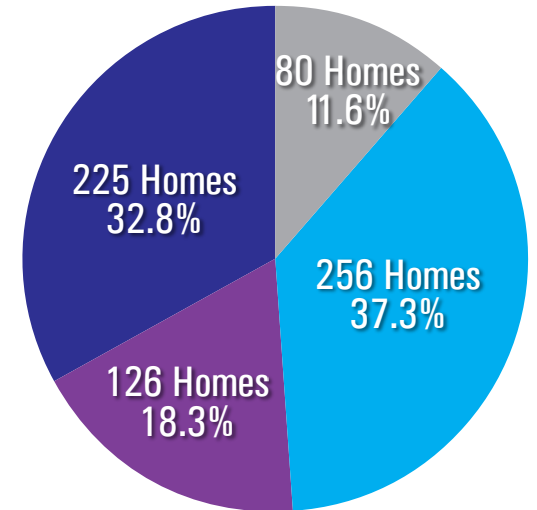
HOME SALES

YEAR-TO-DATE 2024-2023

687
Homes
Sold

2024 / *jan thru june*

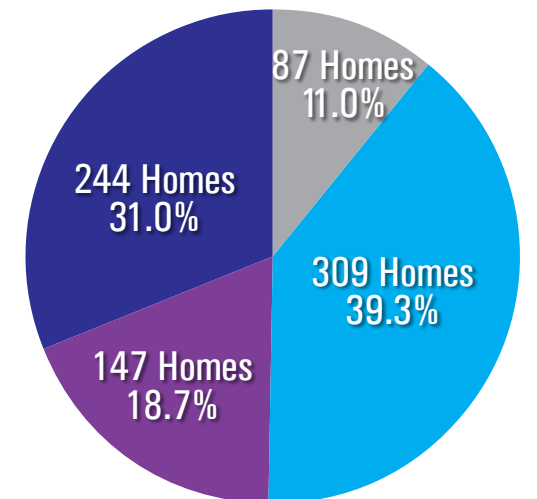
12.7% decrease in homes sold compared to 2023.



787
Homes
Sold

2023 / *jan thru june*

29.2% decrease in homes sold compared to 2022.



Total home sales reflect new construction and existing homes sold in Jonesboro MSA (Craighead and Poinsett Counties)