

# Arkadelphia Chamber works county-wide

Working together in the spirit of cooperation was the presentation given to the Gurdon Rotary on Thurs. Oct. 1.

Members from the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce visited with the Rotary about the resources Clark County has to offer its citizens.

"We want everyone to know that the Arkadelphia Chamber isn't about boundaries or territories, we want to work together to maximize manpower and resources to get something done," said Connie Nelson, Executive Director of the Arkadelphia Chamber.

One of the chamber's roles is to work with the Clark County Strategic Plan Committee. Carrie Robertson sits on the Strategic Plan Committee and stated what she believes to be the top four achievements of the committee so far this year.

Robertson said the College Preparatory Academy is open to Arkadelphia, Centerpoint and Gurdon High School students in need of extra help to prepare for the ACT exams. The students are taken to the Henderson State University Campus and given an opportunity to get the tutoring to improve

scores.

"Arkansas spends a lot of money each year on college remedial courses. Our goal is to help students raise their scores above 19 so that those courses are no longer needed," said Robertson.

She also listed the Clark County Child Care facility located on Highway 67 at Gum Springs.

"Our goal is to make this a 24-hour facility, but we will have to wait for the industry to pick back up to hopefully get more children enrolled," said Robertson.

She said the facility currently has about 90 students. According to

Robertson, the Gurdon school district has agreed to transport students to the after school program once they have reached a certain number of students.

The Clark County Charitable Health Clinic is another asset that has been brought about by the Strategic Plan, Robertson said.

"This is a wonderful, wonderful asset to our community. It takes away the stigma of needing assistance. You are sent to a doctor's office just like everyone else and seen as a usual patient," said Nelson.

The health clinic operates with

volunteer doctors, dentists, and mental health experts, Robertson said. Once the need is established, patients are then transferred to the health facility that will fill the need.

Robertson said the committee is also slated to begin work on a hiking and biking trail at Lake DeGray.

"We are not finished. We are working on so much more and Gurdon is an integral part of that," said Nelson.

For more information about any of the services available to Clark County residents contact the Arkadelphia Chamber at 246-5542.