



## Press Release

Contact: Mayor's Office  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 22, 2011

**Bentonville, AR--**Downtown Bentonville just became even “cooler”. The City of Bentonville and the Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau are excited to announce the annual opening of the Splash Pad at Ernest G. Lawrence Plaza at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 7.

Formally opening on November 20, 2010, Bentonville Parks and Recreation hosted more than 10,000 participants during the winter season at the Ice Rink at Lawrence Plaza. Now that warm weather has arrived, City Officials are excited to open the summer activities of this multi-use facility. This interactive water park features more than 80 jets where people of all ages can play.

The Lawrence Plaza Splash Pad will operate seven days per week, from 9:00 am until 10:00 pm. There is no fee for use of this facility. The splash pad will remain open until Sunday, September 25, 2011.

The Splash Park will close at 4:00 pm on days of Bentonville Parks and Recreation's First Friday Flick events. These events begin at 8:00 pm, immediately following Downtown Bentonville Inc.'s First Fridays on the Downtown Square.

The facility was named after Ernest G. Lawrence, the Mayor of Bentonville from 1970 to 1974. During Lawrence's tenure as Mayor, he had many achievements, including the decision to municipalize the City of Bentonville's water and electric departments. After he served as Mayor, Mr. Lawrence led the effort to acquire land that eventually became Dave Peel Park, just southeast of the downtown square. Mr. Lawrence was a founding board member of the Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center and the Peel House Foundation. He also served on the Bentonville School Board and was a member of the Bentonville Rotary Club.

The cost to construct Lawrence Plaza was \$1,514,482. Bentonville Convention and Visitor's Bureau led the effort to construct the facility and contributed \$1,055,000 toward the project. The City of Bentonville's Parks and Recreation Bond paid the remaining costs.

For more information, please call Bentonville Parks and Recreation at 464-7275 (PARK), or visit us online at [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com).

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