



FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

From the Mayor

2018 marks 181 years since the founding of Bentonville. Imagine for a moment the scope of changes our city has seen.

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From a small thriving agricultural community to a vibrant 21st century city that has become a destination for regional, national and worldwide travelers. With a population estimated to be near 48,000, Bentonville is known for its welcoming spirit and its “can do” attitude. Home to the world’s largest retailer, a famous art museum and people groups from

throughout the world, Bentonville is garnering awards and recognition as one of the best places in the United States to live and work. The caring and giving spirit of our city was recognized again in January 2018, when the Governor’s office and the Arkansas Department of Human Services presented Bentonville with the Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Award, for the eighth year in a row! I appreciate all in our community who selflessly give of their time and resources to assist those with

needs ranging from physical to financial. The cumulative effect of these volunteers creates a quality of life seldom found in our fast-paced society. I think this is a special time and that we have been blessed beyond measure. If you are not currently participating in some form of volunteer activity, I encourage you to be sensitive to opportunities of service and consider becoming an influence that will help make our community an even better place to live. Best wishes for a healthy and successful 2018.

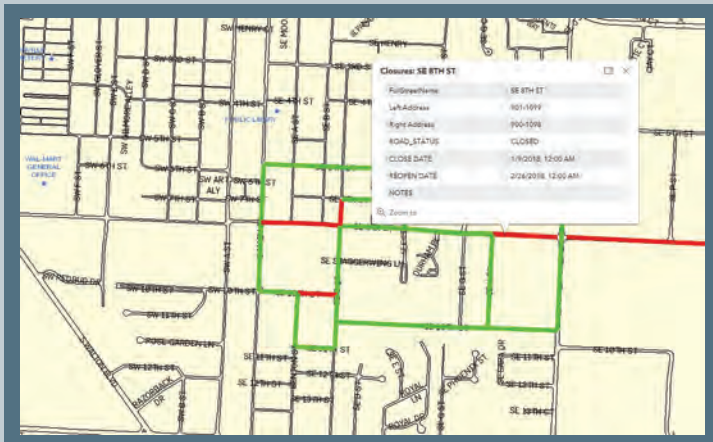
Mayor Bob McCaslin

Help for Your Daily Drive:

Online Road Closure Map

Bentonville’s new online road closure map identifies active road closures and detour routes.

This map shows the long-term road closures in Bentonville due to construction or utility work. You can find information pertaining to the closure by clicking on the red line. Here you will find date of closure, expected length of closure and a quick explanation of the type of work being performed. Road closures due to emergencies or planned for less than one day will not be on the map.



When traveling around and through road closures, be mindful of pedestrian and construction worker safety. Reduce speeds and follow the detour signs.

Where can you find the Road Closure Map?

Click on the “Road Closed/Detour

Ahead” icon on the Street Department page of the city website bentonvillear.com or go directly to the GIS Mapping page and select Street Closure Map.

Look for this icon:



2017 Third Quarter Outstanding Citizen Award Recipients

The Outstanding Citizen Award program recognizes the exceptional volunteer contributions of Bentonville residents.

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Youth Winner: **Arjun Krishna**. Arjun Krishna, a junior at Bentonville High School (BHS) was nominated by Maolina Yang. Ms. Yang describes Arjun as a fun, easy-going student who has instilled his passion for learning to others. Arjun is a peer tutor at the Bentonville Public Library, a peer math tutor at Lincoln Junior High with the Math Counts after school program, and a student leader facilitator to the after school ROAR Program at BHS. Ms. Yang says that Arjun has a genuine concern for other's success and has initiated the Coding Club to give students who are



intimidated or who did not have a chance to take coding classes to learn the fundamentals. His goal is to bring in guest speakers and eventually lead the Coding Club to competition level. Arjun is a passionate learner who is on the quest of instilling excitement in learning to his peers.

Adult Winner: **Melanie Billing**. Irene Medrano, Executive Director of Sharing and Caring of Benton County, nominated Melanie Billing, a devoted and generous volunteer with Sharing and Caring of Benton County for over 13 years. Melanie's tireless efforts include creating decorations for the children's fundraisers that assist Sharing and Caring in providing hundreds of children the most basic needs during the holiday season. Melanie assists on distribution day by passing out presents, guiding traffic or helping anywhere else she is needed. Irene says when Melanie commits to helping the kids, the sky is the limit and that she shows so much kindness and respect to all the families and volunteers. Melanie finds time to help other non-profits and is a Girl Scout troop leader.



Community Group Winner: **The DEB Project, Sammy Laney**. The DEB Project was nominated by Brandy Overton, a Bright Futures Advisory Board member. Sammy Laney started the DEB Project in June 2012 and achieved 501(c)(3) status in April 2015. The DEB Project stands for *Deserving Enriched & Blessed*. Sammy believes that every child is deserving to be blessed and put that concept into practice by making sure that children have one of life's most basic needs, clothing. Sammy is someone we can call on to take care of a child's need for clothing, according to Ms. Overton. The DEB Project is supported by the community's generous donations and volunteer time. Ms. Overton states that The DEB Project has made a huge impact on countless children and families in our community.



Nomination forms available at bentonvillear.com.

Landscaping of the Month Award

Nominations for Bentonville's Landscaping of the Month Award are accepted April through October. Residents and business owners may submit a nomination (their own or someone else's) by completing the application at bentonvillear.com. All entries must be received by the first Monday of the month.

Winners are honored by the Mayor at a City Council meeting and are presented with a decorative yard sign designating their landscaping as a winner. A photograph of the winner and landscaping is placed in the city newsletter.

Contact: Danielle Semsrott
dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com
(479) 271-3122



Volunteer Award

City staff Danielle Semsrott and

Karilea Magee accepted the city's Volunteer Community of the Year Award for 2017.

Report volunteer hours to help us achieve a 2018 Volunteer Community of the Year Award. Submit a brief description of volunteer activities, number of volunteers, and number of volunteer hours between 9/1/17 and 8/31/18 by Sept. 7, 2018. Use the reporting form on the Resident tab on the city website.

Contact: Danielle Semsrott
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Lynda Now Available

Want to learn coding, marketing, or even animation skills, but don't know where to start? We can help!

BPL is now offering access to Lynda.com where you can learn those skills and more! Lynda.com has over 3,000 courses and more than 130,000 videos that cover a variety of topics including business, design, web development and software. BPL cardholders can now access Lynda's content for free! Visit bentonvillelibrary.org and click on *e-learning* to begin!



lynda.com

New titles for 2018

Go Set a Watchman
by Harper Lee

Orphan Train
by Christina Baker Kline

Hillbilly Elegy
by J.D. Vance

And many more!

Books & Bites Book Club

BPL is adding even more titles to our Books & Bites Book Club Kit collection! Books & Bites is a book club in a bag! Each kit contains 10 copies of the title, discussion questions, *Snacks & Sips* food and beverage pairing guide, and more.



BENTONVILLE GEEKCON 2018

Featuring
Free Comic Book Day

MAY 5
Bentonville Public Library
FREE COMICS
DOOR PRIZES
GAMES
ALL AGES WELCOME



Thinking Money

February 10 - March 15

Visit the Thinking Money Exhibition at Bentonville Public Library! Thinking Money is a traveling exhibit designed to teach tweens, teens and the adults in their lives about money management. Visit our calendar at bentonvillelibrary.org for a full schedule of programs and events!

The American Library Association Public Programs Office in collaboration with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, whose support made this exhibition possible, developed Thinking Money.

Severe Weather Preparedness with Darby Bybee

March 28 @ 7 p.m.

Get weather aware and weather prepared! Join 40/29 News Chief Meteorologist Darby Bybee at BPL for an exciting presentation on severe weather preparedness. Darby will cover how to spot severe weather in the field and severe weather safety.

Word on the Streets

COMPLETED

Hwy 12

Widened Hwy 12 from Shell Rd to S Walton Blvd to a five-lane arterial road with sidewalks.

Elm Tree / Hwy 72 Intersection

Added right turn lanes at Elm Tree Rd and modified traffic signals.

Asphalt Overlay

Completed asphalt overlay of three roadway miles.

New City Engineer

Ellen Norvell is the new engineer for the city. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas, is a



licensed Professional Engineer, and a Certified Floodplain Manager. She

has over 30 years of experience in the planning and design of street and drainage projects and water distribution and wastewater collection systems. She has worked as a consultant for several engineering firms and most recently as the City Engineer for Sherwood, AR.

She has been married to her husband, Tim, for 33 years and they have two sons, one daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Ellen is an avid Razorback fan, enjoys attending sporting events and travelling.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

8th St Utility Relocation

Right-of-way has been acquired and utilities are being relocated to make room for the planned roadway construction on 8th St between SW I St and Moberly Ln. All utilities have been on site working to make adjustments to their facilities. Relocations should be complete by summer 2018.

8th St / I-49 Interchange

ArDOT is underway with the construction of the 8th St / I-49 interchange. The project includes construction of SE 8th St from I-49 to Moberly Ln. Completion is expected for this fall.

Pedestrian Tunnel, SE 8th / SE J Tunnel construction crossing SE J St has been completed and now construction under SE 8th St is underway. The project is approximately 60% complete.

NW 3rd St, Phase III

This project consists of replacing the bridge and widening NW 3rd St from Saddlebrook Dr to Coler Creek. Construction began last September with anticipated completion this summer.

I-49 Interchange Improvements

ArDOT is in the final stages of construction of Hwy 72 / I-49 and Hwy 102 / I-49 interchange improvements.

COMING UP

SW I St / SW 14th St Intersection Improvement

Construction of an additional southbound right-turn lane on SW I St from Melissa Dr to SW 14th St (Hwy 102).

N Walton / NW 12th / Tiger Blvd

Adding left turn lanes for NW 12th St and Tiger Blvd and replacing the existing traffic signal.

Town Vu Bridge Replacement

Replacing the one-lane bridge on Town Vu Rd with a box culvert that will allow for two lanes of traffic.

Watertower Rd / 8th St

Extending 8th St east to Watertower Rd and widening Watertower Rd to SE 14th St (Hwy 62).

8th Street Widening

Widening 8th St from SW I St to Moberly Ln.

REMINDER

Place trash cans on driveway or grass.

Don't place them in the street where they can impede traffic or sidewalks where they can block pedestrians.





PARKS & Recreation

Camp Bentonville

Bentonville Parks & Recreation is proud to reveal our exciting summer line-up for Camp Bentonville! Whatever your child's interest, our aim with Camp Bentonville is to provide campers with a fun, safe environment to learn, explore, create, and play! Our comprehensive Camp Bentonville program offers something for every camper ages 4-16. From Camp Soccer to Camp Super Science, to Camp Basketball to Camp



LEGO® and Camp Adventure, Camp Bentonville guarantees that each camper will have an exciting, unforgettable, fun-filled camp experience!

Learn more and register at:

playbentonville.com



INTRODUCING SQUARE 2 SQUARE TRAINING PROGRAM

Six-Week Training Program
April 7-May 12 • \$100 (includes entry to spring ride)

Participants receive six weeks of instruction with group rides, water bottle, and a custom Square 2 Square cycling jersey

TRAINING PROGRAM SCHEDULE April 1-May 7

Week 1 Safety (5 Miles)	Week 4 Injury Prevention (17 Miles)
Week 2 Maintenance (8 Miles)	Week 5 Nutrition/Hydration (24 Miles)
Week 3 Equipment (12 Miles)	Week 6 Square 2 Square (30 Miles)



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BY THE NUMBERS:

2017 Development Activity

Permitting data reveals Bentonville continues its growth trend.

The number of all building permits issued was 1,562, up nearly 7% from 2016. Total valuation of all building permits was \$395.1 million, up \$22 million from 2016. The number of inspections increased by almost 1,500, with 18,279 in 2017. Code enforcement inspections decreased considerably, down by almost half of that in 2016. The number of planning projects was 350, up nearly 20% from 2016. Most notably was the increase in rezoning requests, 79 in 2017, which is an increase of 103% from 2016.

Residential: The current population estimate is 47,645, a 5% increase from last year. The number of single-family houses started was 459. This is down 22% from last year. However, 2016 was the highest since 2005. The average size and value of a single-family home permitted increased slightly from 2016, with an average size of 2,953 square feet and average value of \$291,569. The most significant change is multifamily units, which went up from 252 in 2016 to 400 in 2017, a 59% increase. The city issued certificates of occupancy for 1,065 residential units, half of which were multifamily units.

Commercial/Industrial: Commercial and industrial permits are trending slightly upward with the city issuing 178 permits, which includes new developments as well as additions and alterations. The value of commercial and industrial permits continues an upward trend, up 27% from 2016, with a 2017 value of \$204 million. The applications coming through the Planning Department indicate continued commercial and industrial growth. The number of commercial and industrial large scale development projects approved for development in 2016 was 84, up 15% from 2016.

In 2017...

The population increased by more than 2,000 residents.

Over 1,000 residential units were completed.

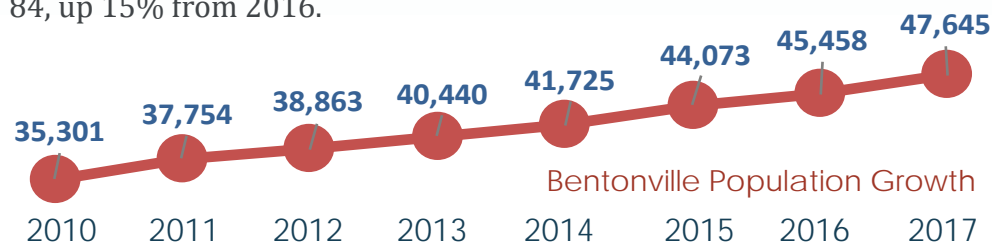
The average size of a new house was 2,953 sq. ft.

Compared to 2016...

The number of building permits increased by 7%.

The value of building permits increased by \$22 million.

The number of multifamily units increased by 59%.



Spring Tree Giveaway

Sat., April 14th
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Community Center
1101 SW Citizens Circle

For the fifteenth consecutive year, Bentonville is giving away trees to increase the city's overall tree canopy, promote a healthier environment, and improve the visual character of the built environment.

Approximately 400 trees are available to Bentonville residents only. The limit is two trees per household.

Pre-registration will be available for advanced verification of Bentonville residency and to reserve trees for pickup at any time during the event.

For Bentonville residents that do not pre-register, approximately 50 trees will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Proof of Bentonville residency, including an ID and City of Bentonville utility bill, is required.

The giveaway is made possible by the city's Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee and the Bentonville Parks Conservancy.

To be added to the tree giveaway notification e-mail list, e-mail Danielle Semsrott at dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com.



PUBLIC SAFETY



Partnering for Animal Services

The cities of Bentonville and Centerton partner to expand Animal Shelter and Services.

The City of Bentonville is a thriving community that quickly outpaced its previous Animal Services program. As a result, the city began exploring options to meet this demand and identified the City of Centerton as a partner that shares its values and operates an approved facility.

Beginning in May, all dogs will be transported to the new Centerton facility. The Centerton Animal Shelter has an established history of re-connecting lost dogs with their owners and manages an active adoption program via social media. With this new partnership, the shelter will expand from 18 to 73 kennels to support the estimated number of dogs brought in from Bentonville. This

unified program and sharing of expenses will benefit both cities. The City of Bentonville will hire an additional Animal Services Officer to help locate pet owners to quickly reunite them with their lost pets, assist homeowners with unwanted wildlife.

All dogs that come into the facility are posted to the [Centerton Animal Shelter Facebook](#) page and are available for adoption. The shelter will be adjusting operating hours to accommodate Bentonville and Centerton residents. If you have questions, please call them at (479)795-0078 and they will be happy to assist you.



Dial 911 for Emergencies Only

Who do you call for a power outage? *Hint: It's not 911.*

As the city anticipates continued growth for 2018, so will the need for emergency services. The Bentonville 911 Call Center received a total of 117,095 calls during 2017. Every call is important and time is of the essence during an emergency. They do, however, receive calls that are not necessarily an emergency.

A recent issue is from electric customers who call 911 to report a loss of power at their home or business during an outage. The 911 Center does not have access to customer accounts or the ability to connect customers with the City of Bentonville Electric Department. These calls also prevent 911 telecommunicators from focusing on vehicle accidents or medical needs that are commonly received during an outage.

The City of Bentonville Electric Department has dedicated phone lines for customers to notify them of a power outage. When the Electric Department directly receives these calls, they can quickly identify the source of the problem and promptly direct their resources.

To report power outages:

Business hours: (7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
(479)271-3135, ext. 2

After-hours:
1-800-286-1262

Quick & Simple Spring Safety Checklist

Daylight saving time begins March 11;
a good time for safety checks.

According to NFPA, 3 out of every 5 home fire deaths is a result of no smoke detector.

- ☐ Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a month and change batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving.
- ☐ Keep all gas appliance (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) vents free and clear of debris.
- ☐ Have, and review with family, an emergency plan in case of natural disasters or other catastrophic events.
- ☐ Have a home emergency kit, including one gallon per day per person of water, at least a three day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting, duct tape, and medicines.
- ☐ Establish a safe meeting spot.
- ☐ Make sure everyone knows at least two ways out of every room.

Low Impact Development (LID) on the Rise

Low impact development (LID) focuses on sustainable stormwater management techniques for developing areas.

Green infrastructure such as LID can infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source. One of these techniques, bioretention, is the most popular in Bentonville. Bioretention or “rain gardens” collect and treat runoff through specifically designed soils and plants. Stored water is absorbed by the plants and filtered through the soil to remove pollutants and reduce runoff volumes.

To function as designed, regular maintenance is necessary, which includes removing clogs caused by the accumulation of sediments and checking that plants are alive and healthy. Volunteer organizations



Rain garden in Bentonville

assist in keeping Bentonville’s rain gardens beautiful. If interested, call the Stormwater Program at (479) 271-3168.

New! Pay Utilities by Phone

The Utility Billing and Collections Department now offers pay by phone. All you need to pay by phone is your utility account number and your credit/debit card information. Make payments anytime, including weekends and holidays. Just call us at (479)271-3100 and press 1 to access the payment system.

If your contact information has changed, update your mailing address, phone number or email address by calling 271-3100 or sending an email to egovutility@bentonvillear.com.

spring events

MAR

- 3 Irish 5K/10K, Bentonville Community Center, 7 a.m.*
- 24 How-to Festival, Bentonville Public Library, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- 31 Easter at Orchards, Orchards Park, 2 p.m.

APR

- 6 First Friday, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 6 First Friday Flix: Wonder Woman, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
- 7 Run Bentonville Half Marathon, Bentonville Square, 7 a.m.*
- 14 Spring Tree Giveaway, Bentonville Community Center, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 21 Farmers Market start of the season, Bentonville Square, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 27 - 28 4th Annual Bentonville Youth Literature Festival, Bentonville Public Library

MAY

- 1 - 6 Bentonville Film Festival, various locations
- 4 First Friday, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 5 Clean the Streets Day Volunteer Event, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 5 First Annual Bentonville GeekCon, Bentonville Public Library, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 12 Square to Square Bike Ride*, Razorback Regional Greenway
- 17 Rock & Splash, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Magic in the Park, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Yappy Hour, Bentonville Bark Park, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

JUN

- 1 First Friday, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 1 First Friday Flix: Despicable Me 3, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
- 7 Theatre in the Park, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Rock & Splash, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Magic in the Park, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Yappy Hour, Bentonville Bark Park, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Activities are free of charge unless indicated by an asterisk. (*)

Farmer's Market is every Saturday April 21 - October 27