



FOCUS

JUNE 2019

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

A Letter from Mayor Orman



Bentonville is truly an exceptional city! That is probably the statement I hear most from both Bentonville residents and those that travel

in to see our beautiful city. That statement is certainly evident as we move through spring and into the summer. The city comes to life with flowers and trees abloom, events, activities, improvements, and celebrations!

From the Bentonville Half Marathon, to First Fridays, Farmer's Market, Easter at Orchards Park, Square to Square Bike Ride, In the Parks Summer Series, Friday Flicks, 4th of July celebration – the spring and summertime in Bentonville is booming with activity.

There is a sense of excitement in Bentonville and a “Can Do” attitude that allows constructive conversations to happen and solutions to come to fruition. Success comes when the right people from different backgrounds connect and create. A conversation leads to a network. These networks are the building blocks that engage our community and see amazing projects brought to life. Among many of these projects taking shape is the Benton-

ville Pet Resource Center. The location for this facility has been announced and the selection process for the design phase is under way. We appreciate all who have been working with the city to make this project a reality. There is still much to be done and accomplished, but we have a great start. I am especially appreciative to the city employees, the Pet Resource Center Task Force members, and private partnerships that have been working tirelessly to move this project forward.

In addition, Fire Station #7 is making progress towards completion and the new Dispatch Center for the Police Department is also well under construction.

Roads and parking are always on our mind. We are working on a new Master Street Plan, a Downtown Parking Study, and a Bike and Pedestrian Plan, all done in conjunction and designed to work together. We will be soliciting public feedback as we work through these plans, so look for future information and opportunities to give us your input.

The City has sold City Hall and we are putting into action all the pieces of this move. Design plans are under way to relocate the Planning Department to our Public Works facility and provide a One-Stop-Shop for builders and developers. We will be looking to

redesign Community Development and create an administrative services building in this relocation process. Ultimately, we are working toward a plan that will work more efficiently and effectively for the public and utilizes taxpayer dollars in the best manner possible.

On our more fun side, Parks and Recreation is committed to strong programs and building and maintaining great facilities. Some of our most recent improvements include the safety surfacing upgrade at Dave Peel Park to meet all safety requirements and keep our children as safe as possible when using playground equipment. In addition, new padded backstops were added to Memorial Park fields to lengthen the life of the fences around the backstops and are a nice visual improvement. Also happening are ribbon cuttings for the new tennis courts at Citizens Park and the Grand Opening of the Applegate Trail.

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Safety upgrades at Dave Peel Park



Outstanding Citizen Award

2019 First Quarter Recipients:

BHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team & Marisa Snow



NOMINATE!

To obtain a nomination form and additional information, please visit the city's website at bentonvillear.com.

Marisa Snow, Counselor at Barker Middle School, nominated **Coach Richard Rippee and the Bentonville High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team**. Mrs. Snow wrote that two years ago she met with head coach Richard Rippee to see how they could work together to create positive change in students' lives. They came up with the idea of lunch mentoring. The players have volunteered their time one hour a week for the last two years to mentor a group of 6th grade students, bringing with them a positive and enthusiastic attitude. Once the students are finished eating lunch, they focus on activities outside. The basketball court is one of the main areas you will see them. Communicating in an active way, forming bonds and being consistent

has been amazing for the Barker students. The players have tried new activities that are out of their comfort zone to learn more about the student they are mentoring, connecting with their mentee and making a difference.

Marisa Snow was nominated by Barker Middle School PTO. The PTO wrote, "Mrs. Snow is known for efforts to make sure all students at Barker Middle School have the support they need to thrive at school. She always goes above and beyond to

take students under her wing, mentor them, and show them love and compassion." Mrs. Snow works with organizations like Clothed with Compassion, Bright Futures and the DEB Project to make sure the needs of students are met. These relationships provide professional socialization and personal support to facilitate success for the students. They ended their nomination with these words, "Mrs. Snow is a shining example of positive influence and leadership in our community."



Mayor Orman recognizes Coach Richard Rippee, the BHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team and Marisa Snow.

Letter from Mayor Orman *(Continued from Page 1)*

The library recently expanded its shelving for library materials by adding over 400 shelves to accommodate growing collections. This budgeted project provides a 10% increase in shelves and makes good use of available square footage inside the library. BPL also added several new iPads to its Tech Loan Program for patrons to checkout of the library for one week.

iPads offer internet access and come preloaded with select apps that were hand-picked by our librarians.

Technology permeates all aspects of our lives. It is how we connect to each other, to information and to the world. By 2020, it is estimated there will be more than 26 billion connected devices world-wide. The 4th Industrial Revolution is creating a much smarter world. Now more than ever, the City of Bentonville is utilizing technology to improve city living. From Google mapping of our roads for repair to online utility payments, the City is focused on continuously updating and expanding into digital technology to make the experience for our residents and business owners more proficient and sustainable.

We are also aggressively implementing new and better ways to connect with the public. Some of the most common issues and concerns of citizens and their city revolve around traffic, code enforcement and city planning. It all gets better with the integration of technology and data. We are currently working behind the scenes to implement a Bentonville311 system that provides technological advances into a multi-channel service that connects the public with government, while also providing a wealth of data that improves how we seek to run the city. The expected launch date for this feature is September 1, 2019. In addition, recent implementation of the new TrakIt System in our Planning Department offers more efficient tracking



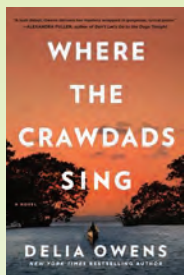
Over 400 new shelves added to library.

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Bentonville Literature Festival *Turning the Page - Summer Series*

Rich Davis - Thurs. June 20, 2019 - 2 p.m.

Drawing workshop, book sale and signing for elementary age students! Rich Davis is a professional artist, children's book artist and drawing game inventor. He will lead an interactive drawing program for children through step-by step process.



Delia Owens - Sat. July 20, 2019 - 11 a.m.

Author presentation, book sale and signing for adults! Delia Owens is the best-selling author of *Where the Crawdads Sing*; her book gained popularity when it was featured in Reese Witherspoon's Book Club. In partnership with If All Arkansas Read the Same Book program with the Center for the Book at Arkansas State Library.

Ashley Franklin - Tues., July 23, 2019 - 10:30 a.m.

Author reading, book sale, signing, and activity stations for preschoolers! Ashley Franklin is the local author of *Not Quite Snow White*, a picture book for magical yet imperfect girls everywhere. *Not Quite Snow White* is a delightful and inspiring picture book that highlights the importance of self-confidence while taking an earnest look at what happens when that confidence is shaken or lost.



Gardening with Ozark Native Plants

Sat., September 14 - 1 p.m.

Learn about the important role that native plants play in the local ecosystem and the benefits of using native species for landscaping and home gardens. Eric Fuselier, president of the Ozark Chapter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society, will discuss how to plan your native plant garden and what to look for when selecting which species to place in a particular location.

Home Buying Workshops

June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, Sep. 25

To become a first-time homebuyer, you need to know where and how to begin the home buying process. In addition to helping you begin the process of owning the "American Dream," this workshop will give you the tools necessary to navigate the entire process - from deciding whether you're ready to buy, all the way to that final proud step, getting the keys to your new home.



Summer Reading Club *June 3 - July 27*

Join the Summer Reading Club at BPL! Sign-up online or at BPL. Programs and prizes for all ages!

Special Events @ BPL

- June 6 Galaxy's WILD Frontiers
- June 11 I Like Being a Kid Concert!
- June 13 Super Science
- June 27 The Wizard of Oz presented by Stevens Puppets
- July 11 Tommy Terrific
- July 12 Michael Albert's An Artist's America
- July 18 Making Accidents Disappear
- July 25 The mömandpöp Kid's Comedy Band

More than 150 library programs are planned this summer! Visit bentonvillelibrary.org to view our full schedule of summer events!



referenceUSA®

Library patrons have free access to search more than 2.5 million job postings in the United States. Mapping tools, detailed business profiles and more are useful in this powerful resource that pulls data from indeed.com and other databases. Log on at bentonvillelibrary.org, click 'eLearning' to access 'Reference USA - U.S. Jobs.'

Letter from Mayor Orman (*continued from Page 2*)

processes for development and is designed to improve review times and file locations, which will lead to a better overall planning experience. We are still working to fully implement all the resources this system offers, but the proficiency is already being recognized.

We held our first Neighborhood Ward Meeting of the year for Ward 1 on April 4th, 2019. We had a full house and staff answered many questions. These meetings provide a forum for City Staff to share information with residents and residents the opportunity to share concerns with the Mayor and city staff. Attendees are kept abreast of upcoming improvement projects in the city and provided pertinent information regarding their neighborhoods and city initiatives. The intent and the result of the Neighborhood Ward Meetings are to engage residents in conversation about public safety, property maintenance and upcoming city initiatives. Upcoming Neighborhood Ward meetings are scheduled for Wards 2, 3, and 4. Please join us to discuss important topics and issues concerning your neighborhood.

The City is also launching Bentonville's Great Neighborhoods Program. This program connects the Mayor's

core goals of transparency and improved communication with residents to the Community Plan's goal of stronger neighborhoods and the principle of providing a "great place to plant roots." Look for more information to come about this program, how you can be involved with it, and an official launch coming June 1, 2019. For those wanting more information about this initiative, please contact the Mayor's Office.

I could go on with projects and programs that are being improved and implemented within the city to make your experience with the City of Bentonville better and better, but I will save some for upcoming newsletters. Just know, the City of Bentonville is committed to providing quality services and continuously working to improve the quality of life you experience in Bentonville.

As I write this letter, I am preparing to honor our 1st Quarter Outstanding Citizen Award Winners. I am honored to continue with this recognition program. These quiet heroes are sprinkled throughout the City of Bentonville. They perform deeds silently or with an assuring voice, without fanfare, without the expectation of reward or honor. They serve with

Neighborhood Ward Meetings

Ward 2 Meeting

Thurs., June 20
Bentonville Public Library -
Walmart Room

Ward 3 Meeting:

Thurs., August 29
Bentonville Community Center -
Redbud Room

Ward 4 Meeting

Thurs., November 7
Bentonville Public Library -
Walmart Room

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

grace and humility. They are pillars of our community and they truly make a difference in our city. My hope is you love this city too and share in the goal to make it the best city in America to live, work and play. And, together we can all #BeTheBentonvilleDifference.

I would like to end by extending a personal thank you to all of you who have connected with me to offer ideas and suggestions. We truly have a unique city poised to thrive in the future. I am committed to listening and working together to find the best possible solutions for our community. I appreciate you taking the time to let us know how we are doing and where we may need to make improvements.

Each day we strive to make your experience in Bentonville something exceptional. Let me know about your recent experience at one of our city events, or about your latest visit to a city park or interaction with a city employee. We are here to serve you! Please contact me at any time with your questions or concerns. You can always reach me either by email sorman@bentonvillear.com or phone 479-271-5966.

All My Best-
Mayor Orman





PARKS & Recreation

Aquatic Center Open for Season

Melvin Ford Aquatic Center provides something for people of all ages and swimming abilities! The 50-meter competition pool ranges from 3-8 feet deep and is great for recreational and lap swimming. For younger children, a one foot deep wading pool featuring a rain drop fountain is located on deck. For the more adventurous, the Aquatic Center has a 13-foot deep dive well equipped with two 1-meter spring diving boards.



Citizen's Park Tennis Complex Open



Bentonville Parks and Recreation is thrilled to announce that the Citizens Park Tennis Complex is open. This complex, located at 1100 SW Citizens Circle, features eight tennis courts, eight pickle ball courts, a restroom facility, pavilion and picnic tables.

Fall Sports Registration Now Available

The fall sport season is just around the corner! Bentonville Parks & Recreation is proud to offer a variety of sports for youth and adults. Registration is currently open for youth soccer and youth softball. Registration for Youth & Adult Tennis, Adult Kickball, and Adult Soccer will open July 1st!



Fall Tennis



Youth Softball



Youth Soccer



Adult Kickball



MELVIN FORD Open Swim Hours

Mon- Fri	12:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Sat - Sun	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Lap Swim Hours

Mon - Thu	5:30 am - 7:30 pm
Fri	5:30 am - 7:00 pm
Sat	7:00 am - 9:00 am
	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sun	12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

For information on any of these activities, please visit www.playbentonville.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

ORCHARDS PARK

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

7:00PM | 9:30PM

LIVE MUSIC | FIREWORKS

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM DIAL UP! AND THE ARKANSAS WINDS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

By the Numbers:
First Quarter 2019

426 building permits issued
125 houses started
356 multi-family units started
7 new commercial started

Great Neighborhoods Initiative Launched

Great communities are a collection of great neighborhoods that are friendly, safe, attractive and civically engaged.

The mission of the Great Neighborhoods Partnership is to strengthen Bentonville by supporting and encouraging great neighborhoods by building bonds among neighborhood residents; cultivating a sense of security and safety; empowering residents to enhance their neighborhood, and fostering communication between residents and the city. The initiative has

four components:

- Neighborhood Planning and Support
- Neighborhood Registry
- Neighborhood Advisory Commission
- Neighborhood Programs

Find out more by contacting the Mayor's office or visiting the city website at www.bentonvillear.com.



Census 2020 is Coming: Be Counted

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all the people residing in the United States. The next census is just around the corner in 2020.

The City of Bentonville is excited to announce that we've partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to support the 2020 Census. We'll be working to ensure that Bentonville is accurately counted.

Why it matters. Responding to the census is our civic duty and affects the allocation of funding of our community's public resources, how we plan for the future, and our voice in government. The census can shape many different aspects of the community. Each year, the results help determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities.

Data from the census helps inform planning efforts for important community resources, such as schools, transportation and hospitals.

What to expect. By April 2020, households will receive an invitation to participate in the census. When completing the census, you'll note where you are living on April 1. Responses are confidential. You'll have three options to respond: online, by phone, or by mail.

To learn about the upcoming census, how the data is collected, how the data will be used, and what to expect, visit 2020census.gov.

Development Code Amended

The city regularly reviews development codes for clarification, correction or updates to meet current conditions. On April 9, 2019 City Council approved the most recent recommended amendments to the Land Development Code (previously titled Subdivision Code).

Details of the changes are online at www.bentonvillear.com/198/Code-Amendments.

United States®
**Census
2020**

Become a
Census Taker

Apply online at
2020census.gov/jobs
Great pay! Flexible hours!
Paid training!

A count of the population of the United States every ten years is mandated by the U.S. Constitution: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

For the first time, in 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online. The process will be quick and secure. You can respond to the census in less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee.



PUBLIC SAFETY



Spring Cleaning...think Fire Safety!

- Test smoke alarms and replace any alarms older than 10 years.
- Test carbon monoxide alarms and replace any alarms older than 7 years.
- Check dryer vents and clean the housing.
- Clean clutter inside and outside your home.
- Practice your home fire escape plan.
- Check the cords on your appliances. If any are cracked or frayed, repair or replace them.

Arkansas Passes New Bicycling Law: Effective this Summer!

Starting on July 1, 2019, a new law will go into effect that is designed to keep bicyclists safe and traffic flowing. The State of Arkansas passed Act 650 which will permit bicyclists to yield at stop signs and at red lights *under certain circumstances*. Let's break it down so we can comply with the new law and understand the safety concerns.

Stop or Yield Sign - Bicyclist shall slow down when approaching a stop sign, or completely stop if there is an immediate hazard. If no hazards are present, bicyclists can cautiously enter the intersection and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

Steady Red-Light - Bicyclist shall make a complete stop at the steady red traffic light before entering the intersection; and yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard during the time that he or she is moving across or within the intersection. Bicyclists can make a right-hand turn at a steady red traffic

light without stopping, after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way, if required, to oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard. Bicyclists can make a left-hand turn onto a one-way road at a steady red traffic control light after stopping and yielding to oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard.

More specific information and a complete reading of the new law can be found at the State of Arkansas web-



site www.arkleg.state.ar then search "SB388." Ultimately, the decision to proceed through an intersection, following a determination that the roadway is clear and safe, rests upon the bicyclist's personal judgement. This new law gives bicyclist more freedom to navigate the roads of NWA but it also comes with a great amount of responsibility. Drive safe, be courteous and have a great Summer!



Photo courtesy of honkforhelp.com

Pool Dewatering

There are over 700 documented pools within the city limits of Bentonville. It is important to dewater pools in an environmentally friendly way. Never discharge polluted water directly into a street storm inlet, gutter, or sanitary sewer. Check pool chemistry before discharging. It is best to discharge slowly into a grassy area. Move the hose regularly to prevent erosion. When dewatering, use devices to collect and properly dispose of any debris. Remove pollutants such as dead frogs, leaves, scum, salt, or soaps in the water. This action will prevent storm drain clogging, street flooding, and environmental damage to the creek. Additional pool guidance available upon request. Contact Janet Paith at jpaith@bentonvillear.com.

Become an expert recycler

Learn to avoid common mistakes, tell the difference between what's recyclable and what's not, and use best practices for keeping your recycling clean.



Never recycle anything smaller than a credit card

If the material is too small to go through the sorting equipment, it could get jammed and shut down the whole operation.



Separate combined materials

Keep materials in separate categories - hard plastics, metal cans, paper and cardboard.



If your recycling container smells, it's contaminated

If your recycling container stinks, it's contaminated with non-recyclable waste. Remove the waste and rinse out the bin.



Keep your recyclables dry

Don't allow any more than a teaspoon of liquid to collect in cans, bottles, or jugs. Recyclables should always be empty, clean and dry.



If you can poke your finger through it, don't recycle

If you can push your finger through it, the plastic is too soft and flimsy to be recycled. It would get tangled in the sorting machinery and jam up the operation.

JULY

- 4 An Evening of Celebration, Orchards Park, 7 p.m.
- 5 First Friday: *Great Outdoors*, Bentonville Square, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 5 First Friday Flix: *The Lego Movie 2*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
- 11 Rock & Splash: *Rackensak*, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Science in the Park: *Mad Science*, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Yappy Hour: *Russ Hutchinson*, Bentonville Bark Park, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SUMMER EVENTS

All activities are
free of charge

AUGUST

- 2 First Friday: *Back to School*, Bentonville Square, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 2 First Friday Flix: *How to Train Your Dragon 3*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
- 8 Magic in the Park: *Mike Bliss Master of Variety*, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Rock & Splash: *New School Rock Band*, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Magic in the Park: *Bonkers the Clown*, Lawrence Plaza, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Art Stroll, Bentonville Square, 5 p.m.
- 30 Yappy Hour: *BJ Lowell*, Bentonville Bark Park, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 6 First Friday: *International Festival*, Bentonville Square, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 6 First Friday Flix: *Christopher Robin*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 4 First Friday: *Chalktoberfest*, Bentonville Square, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 4 First Friday Flix: *The House with the Clock in its Walls*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
- 10 Art Stroll, Bentonville Square, 5 p.m.