



FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2020

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

Letter from Mayor Orman

We've had a busy 2019 in our City. It seems like it has flown by! We have listened, learned, and we're leading to make Bentonville the best place in America to live, work and play. I'm very proud of what our City has achieved. We should all be proud, and we should be ready to continue to work together and accomplish even more in the New Year! Our City deserves a community willing to have respectful conversations, find common ground and ultimately find the very best solutions for our area.

As we begin the second year together, I want you to know my door remains open. I invite you in for any conversations that center around helping to make Bentonville a more resilient, vibrant community.

My first year in office has been both incredibly rewarding and humbling. We have had many successes and a few challenges, while not always fun to deal with, both have made me a better person and Mayor. Waking up each day and working with a dedicated team of public servants to better the lives of all that choose to call Bentonville home is truly an honor.

If I could communicate one nugget of information to the public about the past year, it would be that City employees certainly

we want our residents to know we are here to help them.

I am also committed to a City that partners with County govern-



are the unsung heroes that roll up their sleeves and get the job done every day. One of the things I have most enjoyed this year is presenting about our City to various community and civic groups. I hope to speak more about each of our departments and how each one performs vital services for our City in 2020. As our city grows, it will be imperative that our departments work together. We want to have exemplary customer service and

ment, our school system, community partners and surrounding cities to promote and enhance the quality of life for all. Bentonville is an exceptional place where brilliant talents and the willingness to work together creates great rewards! A special thank you in this regard to the community leaders that I meet with every Monday. Your support and willingness to work together for a better Bentonville continues to inspire me.

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2019

Year in Review

Here is a quick glimpse of just a few of the new services and amenities we have put in place in 2019.

We implemented our new Bentonville311.com system and are working hard every day to meet the concerns sent in through this new community engagement system.

We initiated a city-wide Great Neighborhoods Program designed to promote friendly, safe, attractive and engaged neighborhoods.

We have launched social media for The City of Bentonville to help keep you informed.

We passed a budget for 2020 that has clearly defined priorities for infrastructure and safety, while reflecting fiscal responsibility.

We opened the Emergency Communications and Criminal Investigation Center that creates a weather hardened dispatch center for Police and Fire with an integrated Emergency Operations Center.

Construction is almost complete on Fire Station #7 and we are hiring 12 new employees for the station to better serve the growing southwest part of the City.

We added an inclusive playground, new tennis courts, new trails and are finishing work on the Lake Bentonville project that will add kayaking and canoeing to our list of outdoor City amenities.

We are aggressively progressing with major road projects. We have made improvements to key intersections, added signals, sidewalks and doubled the overlay program for 2020.

Proactive infrastructure maintenance and additional capacity in our

water, wastewater and electric departments is a constant task. All you have to do is just imagine a day without water or electricity to realize how drastically that would affect your daily activities. The Electric Department currently operates nine substations, one switching station, a little over 16 miles of transmission line, over 900 miles of distribution line, 3,500 street lights and over

**We are committed to
delivering transparent,
first class customer service.**

25,000 electric accounts. The City has a water distribution system and a sanitary sewer collection system, both with over 300 miles of pipe each, five water tanks, and a wastewater treatment plant that the Water and Wastewater Departments operate and maintain. Honestly, these departments have done far too much to highlight in a quick sentence. We should all be thankful for their consistent commitment to clean water and reliable electricity.

We also have a maintenance crew that makes sure we have a clean, well-kept City for all to enjoy.

We have a new Community Court program that addresses mental health and substance abuse issues while also providing case management to help offenders remove barriers to success, as well as assist with gainful employment, safe housing and transportation. We also launched online case resolution during 2019. This program allows individuals with minor violations to negotiate their case and resolve the matter without having to appear in court reducing travel time and time away from work and family.

We embarked on a centralized digital solution for development

called TRAKit that creates efficiency in automating and coordinating the construction planning and permitting process. Citizens, contractors, business owners, architects, and engineers can view the status of projects and now have a digital reference point for transparency and coordination with the City.

The Bentonville Public Library is always busy, with last year's visits and checkouts reaching new heights. Special events included our 5th Annual Literature Festival featuring NY Times bestselling author Delia Owens and the 2nd Annual Bentonville GeekCon with nearly 4,000 participants.

And of course, economic investment is on the rise for Bentonville. New businesses, amenities and parking garages are just a few things you will see in the New Year.

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GET CONNECTED

BENTONVILLE311.COM



connecting citizens to services

Bentonville 311 provides the citizens of Bentonville with a simple online single point of contact for City Services. To report a service concern online:

1. Go to www.bentonville311.com.
2. Select the category for concern.
3. Fill out the service request form for non emergency services.
4. Submit form.

Enter a valid email to receive email notifications on the progress as our City team addresses your concern.



New Teen & Tween iPad Stations

Drop by BPL and see our newly installed iPad stations just for teens and tweens! Located in the Teen Zone and the Tween Zone, students will now have a place of their own to check their social media, surf the web, and more! The new iPad stations were made possible by the Bentonville Library Foundation and Walmart Gives NWA.



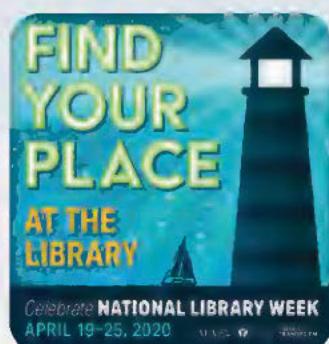
Celebrate Earth Day!

Celebrate conserving our planet with two special events at BPL.

Sat., April 11, 1-3 p.m. - Kids and families are invited to the Walmart Community Room at BPL for Earth Day Activities!

Wed., April 29, 6 p.m. - Green Your Scene: Low Impact Development for Your Home- Learn about ways to implement low impact development options at your own home! Join our expert panel as they discuss green roofs, rain gardens, and other strategies!

Find YOUR Place at the Library!



National Library week is April 19 – 25, and while we invite you to celebrate BPL this spring – we welcome you all year 'round to Find Your Place here!!!

We have something to offer everyone – programs, workshops, crafts, volunteer opportunities, technology, movies, books and so much more! Find Your Place at YOUR library!

Big Thursday Programs! @ 2 p.m. in the Walmart Community Room

- 6/4 - *Character of the Ozarks* presented by Still on the Hill
- 6/11 - *Super Science*; educational entertainment for all ages!
- 6/18 - *Laura Doherty's Music for the Whole Family*
- 6/25 - *Beauty and the Beast* presented by Stevens Puppets

One District, One Book Celebration - Sun., March 8

Bentonville Public Library joins Bentonville Schools, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and our community in celebrating this year's One District, One Book – *Bob* by Wendy Maas and Rebecca Stead at Crystal Bridges.

GeekCon 2020 - Sat., May 2

Get your geek on at Bentonville GeekCon! This year we're back with even more ways to celebrate all things geeky! Plus, we'll be celebrating Free Comic Book Day with... what else... free comics!

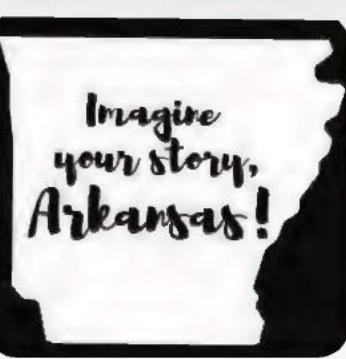


Imagine Your Story, Arkansas! Summer Reading Club 2020

Join us at BPL for a summer of stories! Programs for all ages including storytimes, workshops, crafts and much more!

Traveling Exhibit - Territorial Arkansas: The Wild Western Frontier June 1-25

Discover the wild history of the Arkansas Territory.



word on the **STREETS**

**Have thoughts on traffic?
Now's your chance to tell us about it.**

We need your input for the City of Bentonville Master Street Plan. The City of Bentonville is preparing a Master Street Plan to address future needs and your opinions and suggestions can make a difference. We are asking residents and those who travel within Bentonville to take a short survey and attend one of the public meetings. Use the web link below or QR code to take the survey.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/BentonvilleMasterStreetPlan

Recently Completed

SW/SE 8th Utility Relocation, SW I to Moberly. Acquired right-of-way and relocated utilities for the road widening project.

Walton Resurfacing. ARDOT resurfaced the road with a mill and asphalt in-lay from Rainbow Curve (Hwy 12) north to the roundabout.

Under Construction

SW I / SW 14th Intersection. Constructing an additional southbound lane on SW I St. from Melissa Dr. to SW 14th St. (Hwy 102).

I-49 / Exit 85 Improvements. ARDOT is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

I-49/Exit 93 Improvements. ARDOT is removing the roundabout and constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange.

In the Works

N Walton / Tiger Intersection. Constructing left turn lanes at NW 12th St. and Tiger Blvd. and replacing signal.

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

NW 3rd / Walton Signal. Installing a traffic signal that includes protected left turn movements for NW 3rd St.

Town Vu Bridge Replacement. Replacing the current one-lane bridge on Town Vu Rd. with a box culvert.

Water Tower Rd / 8th. Extending SE 8th St. east to Water Tower Rd. and widening Water Tower Rd. south to SE 14th St.

Clean the Streets Day Sat., April 25

The City of Bentonville is participating in Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup™ by organizing a city wide *Clean the Streets Day* on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Great American Cleanup™ occurs each spring and is the nation's largest community improvement effort. Thousands of Arkansas volunteers clean up and beautify their communities.

Volunteers are needed to help pick up litter along Bentonville city streets, trails, and drainage ways. Supplies are provided. For more information and to sign up, please visit the city website.

[www.bentonvillear.com/545/
Volunteer-Program](http://www.bentonvillear.com/545/Volunteer-Program)



Spring Tree Giveaway Sat., April 18

The City of Bentonville is hosting its 19th consecutive tree giveaway on April 18th at the Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. For event details, please visit:

[www.bentonvillear.com/
837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway](http://www.bentonvillear.com/837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway)

Earth Day Wed., April 22

On Earth Day, the City is encouraging schools and businesses to pick up litter around their property. The City will provide supplies. Contact Danielle at 271-6827 or email:

dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com



PARKS & Recreation

Camp Bentonville

Registration is now open for 2020 Camp Bentonville! We are proud to reveal our exciting spring and 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 4-17. From Camp Soccer to Camp Mad Science, to Camp Basketball and Camp Lego, we guarantee that each camper will have an exciting, unforgettable fun-filled camp experience!



For all of our camp offerings, visit:
www.playbentonville.com

Youth & Adult Tennis Programs

Bentonville Parks and Recreation partners with Ozark Tennis Academy to teach our tennis programming in order to provide the highest quality service and professionalism around.



Tennis
programs
for all ages

Our program offers tennis skill development, fundamental practice, and proper form etiquette for every tennis player regardless of skill or age level. Our tennis coaches are some of the top local tennis pros with a high level of knowledge, experience, and skill. Bentonville Parks and Recreation brings a prestigious tennis program to public of all ages who want to learn tennis, improve their skill, or just get out and play.

To learn more about our year round tennis offerings for youth and adult players, visit: www.playbentonville.com



Camp Bentonville



Square 2 Square Bike Ride

Bentonville and Fayetteville Parks & Recreation departments invite you to celebrate five years of the *Square 2 Square Bike Ride* this spring! On May 2nd, enjoy 30 miles of Razorback Regional Greenway cycling followed by post ride festivities in Downtown Bentonville that will include live music, refreshments, and more! In the spring, you will start in Fayetteville and finish in Downtown Bentonville.

For more information and to register for the Square 2 Square Bike Ride, visit: www.playbentonville.com





PLANNING & BUILDING

BY THE NUMBERS: 2019 Development Activity

For the first year in more than ten years, development number indicates development activity may be slowing slightly. The number of building permits issued was 1,750, up just 1% from 2018. The total valuation of all building permits was \$454 million, down 8%. Inspectors conducted 19,570 inspections, down 7%.

The Planning Department processed 250 projects, down 19% from 2018. Planning Commission approved six preliminary plats with 448 lots and approved five final plats with 146 lots. They also approved 61 large-scale developments and 43 rezoning requests.



RESIDENTIAL

residential permits	505	↓ 10%
residential units	1074	↓ 30%
single-family units	471	↓ 3%
multi-family units	604	↓ 54%



COMMERCIAL

non-residential permits	197	↑ 19%
commercial permits	52	↑ 2%
alteration permits	145	↑ 20%
industrial permits	0	0%

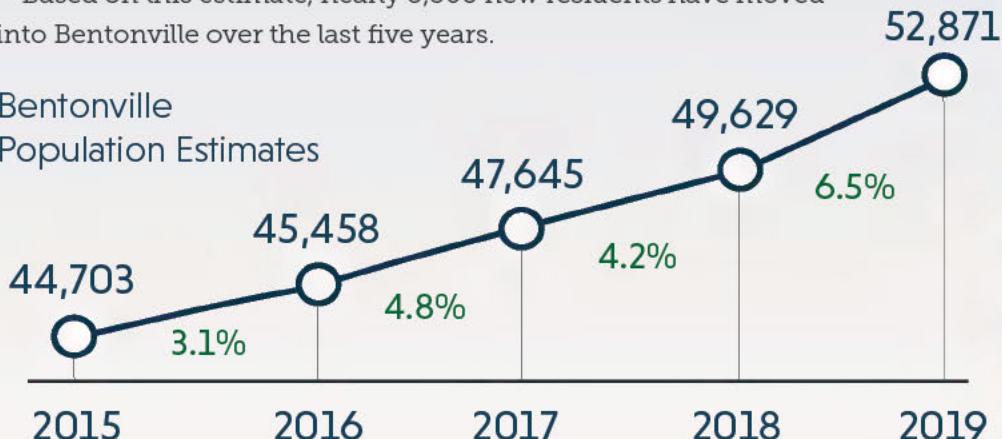
Percentages are change between 2018 and 2019.

Population Estimate: 52,871

Staff uses certificate of occupancy data to estimate population. Bentonville's current population estimate is 52,871, an increase of 6.5% from 2018.

Based on this estimate, nearly 8,800 new residents have moved into Bentonville over the last five years.

Bentonville Population Estimates



United States® Census 2020

Using building permit data is helpful in establishing an estimate of the population. However, the official population numbers are established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The official population count impacts funding for schools and infrastructure. Which is why it is so important for every Bentonville resident to be counted.

For the first time, in 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, in addition to the traditional mail-in survey and phone options.

To learn more about the census, how to fill out the form, or how it impacts the community, visit 2020census.gov.



#becounted
#Census2020
2020Census.gov





PUBLIC SAFETY



Beware of Unofficial Social Media Pages

Misinformation on social media during an emergency or city-wide incident can be disruptive and counterproductive. Sharing correct and accurate information is critical between the city and its residents.

The City of Bentonville has an official Facebook page that it shares with individual city departments including the police department. The police department utilizes this page only and does not endorse or post on any other social media site. Watch out for fake or parody Bentonville Police social media pages. These parody pages do not represent the department but disperse crude, offensive and inappropriate material.

The official City of Bentonville Facebook page is not for reporting crime but a platform for disseminating city or departmental information.

If you ever need to make a police report, please call 479-271-3170 or you can visit the Bentonville Police Department at 908 S.E. 14th Street.

The official City of Bentonville, Arkansas Government Facebook page is a great way to see what's happening in Bentonville! You can access it at:

www.facebook.com/BentonvilleGov/



Spring Cleaning & Fire Safety

As you are cleaning out this spring, don't forget about fire safety.

- Test smoke alarms and replace any alarms that are 10 years old or older.
- Test carbon monoxide alarms and replace any alarms that are seven years old or older.
- Check your dryer vents and clean the hosing.
- Clean clutter inside and outside your home.
- Check the cords on your appliances. If any are cracked or frayed, repair or replace them.
- Practice your home fire escape plan.
- Remove leaves and debris from gutters.

Spring Cleaning
Think
Fire
Safety

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



2020 Ward Meetings

The City of Bentonville will host a series of meetings for each of the city's four wards. Mayor Orman and her staff will engage residents in a conversation about public safety, property maintenance, the Master Street Plan, and a variety of upcoming Bentonville 2020 quality of life initiatives. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Ward 1

Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m.

Bentonville Public Library
Walmart Room

Ward 2

March 5, 6:00 p.m.

Community Center
Magnolia & Redbud Rooms

Ward 3

April 2, 6:00 p.m.

Community Center
Hickory, Magnolia, & Redbud Rms

Ward 4

May 7th, 6:00 p.m.

Bentonville Public Library
Walmart Room

Prior to each ward meeting, a notification postcard will be sent directly to each residential address within the ward. The content at each meeting is similar. If the meeting date for your ward conflicts with your calendar, please feel free to attend another ward's meeting.

To learn more about your ward boundaries or city representatives, please visit the city website.

www.bentonvillear.com/

148/Officials

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There is so much more I could mention about our departments, but I hope this review gives you a little idea of what our team works hard every day to provide for you!

2019 was prosperous for Bentonville and a thrill to be a part of! We are a vibrant, energetic community with a strong reputation as a quality city with a thriving economy.

Do we still have a lot to accomplish? Absolutely! As our city grows, my administration will be dedicated to an approach that recognizes challenges and is prepared to find ways to best resolve them. We look forward to engaging the public and working with their support regarding on-going initiatives, critical tasks and important upcoming

events! We are excited to see what exciting things await us in 2020 and look forward to making 2020 the best year yet in Bentonville.

It is my desire that we never lose sight of how blessed we are, how important collaboration is, and how deep our obligation is to provide a community that offers high quality of life for every generation!

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

Landscaping of the Month

Showcase landscaping in Bentonville by nominating a well-landscaped and maintained property.

Details and nomination form available online:

www.bentonvillear.com/466/
[Tree-Landscape-Committee](#)

Historic Preservation

Celebrate May as National Preservation Month by nominating a respectfully renovated historic structure. Details and nomination form available online:

www.bentonvillear.com/217/
[Historic-Preservation-Award](#)

Looking for Christmas photos! We are looking for great photos of Bentonville during the holiday season to use for our 2020 Christmas card. Please email your photos to: mayor_assistant@bentonvillear.com.

Spring Events

MARCH

5 Ward 2 Meeting, Community Center, 6 p.m.

APRIL

2 Ward 3 Meeting, Community Center, 6 p.m.
3 First Friday: *Home Sweet Home*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
4 Run Bentonville Half Marathon, Bentonville Square, 7 a.m. *
18 Spring Tree Giveaway, Community Center, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
18 Farmer's Market season begins, Bentonville Square, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
22 Earth Day
25 Clean the Streets Day, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MAY

1 First Friday, *Lights, Camera, Action*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
1 First Friday Flicks, *Bentonville Film Festival*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
2 GeekCon, Bentonville Public Library
2 Square to Square Bike Ride, Razorback Regional Greenway *
7 Ward 4 Meeting, Bentonville Public Library, 6 p.m.

JUNE

1-25 Territorial Arkansas Traveling Exhibit, Bentonville Public Library
5 First Friday: *Travel NWA*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
5 First Friday Flicks, *Doolittle*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.

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

Farmer's Market is every Saturday, April 18 through October 31, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All activities are free of charge