



FOCUS

JULY 2020

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

Letter from Mayor Orman

Although the past three to four months have been challenging, they have brought better understanding, empathy, and resilience. We are working through a world-wide pandemic while confronting racial concerns to further Dr. King's dream of a country where no one is "judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." We have seen schools temporarily close, events cancel, passionate protests, businesses trying to understand new regulations and assess the impact, healthcare systems stressed, and jobs and lives affected to their very core. To everyone impacted by recent events, my thoughts and prayers remain with each and every one of you.

As I consider recent events, it's not only our City, but literally the world that has to arise stronger and better through these difficult times. I have focused on listening, seeking wisdom from many, and I have discovered a lot. My desire to emerge from this time of crisis with even more passion to make Bentonville the Best Place in America to live, work, and play has never been stronger! I hope each of you reading this will commit to make your own positive difference in our community, and remember that successful communities have passionate leaders and committed citizens

working together to make a difference and bring goodwill to all. We can find common ground and always come together to make Bentonville an even better place to live in, to look at, to work in, to visit, and to call home. I am reminded daily that a pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity, while an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.

One thing our residents should know is that throughout this time, your City has been here for you. Our City never "shuts down" and we have continued throughout to deliver the essential services you expect from us. Rest assured fire, police, clean water, sewer, electricity, traffic control, trash, planning, and many more essential services have been in place and delivered. I am extremely grateful for our City Staff. City workers do not stop regardless of the circumstance. They are part of our community

and I have been very humbled and impressed with their dedication and teamwork through all of this.

There are many unknowns in our Country right now. What I do know is that the Bentonville community is incredibly strong, compassionate, and resilient. We have the fortitude, the desire, and the ability to lead and make a difference. Now is the

Continued on Pg. 8



Congratulations to our Spirit of Bentonville award recipients, Officer Christopher Gravley and Dana Jackson, who were recognized at the June 23 City Council meeting.

#BeTheBentonvilleDifference

It's OUR BENTONVILLE: Be Safe, Be Smart

The City of Bentonville and key community partners have launched a new public awareness campaign to educate residents and visitors about COVID-19 safety measures. The campaign focuses on these components:

BE SAFE. Social distance, wash your hands, and wear a mask in public.

BE SMART. Stay home if you're experiencing symptoms - get tested.

As the State of Arkansas continues to work through COVID-19 recovery efforts, this safety campaign is supported and promoted by the City, Visit Bentonville, the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bentonville Public School District and Downtown Bentonville, Inc.

From restaurants and local businesses, local attractions, parks, and trails, everyone can do their part to be SAFE and SMART while enjoying the fantastic art, culture, nature, and cycling adventures Bentonville has to offer.



OUR BENTONVILLE
BE SAFE. BE SMART.

Baker Green Team Recognized for Clean-Up Efforts

Mayor Stephanie Orman recently recognized the RE Baker Green Team virtually for their efforts to keep their school campus clean of trash. Ginger Stegall notified the Mayor's office of eleven 4th grade students that chose to pick up trash during their recess time throughout the school year. Mayor Orman did this recognition in conjunction with her #BeTheBentonvilleDifference initiative and the

Spirit of Bentonville program that she announced during her State of the City address earlier this year.

Mayor Orman recognized these students for their good choices, having a positive impact on the community, and to encourage them to continue down this same path throughout life.

Due to COVID-19, Mayor Orman was

unable to provide the award in-person. Instead, she shared a video message with the students and prepared a certificate for the school. Addie, Aubrey, Cayleigh, Clark, Dasha, Ella, Gracie, Judah, Kasey, Mia, and Willow received a letter from Mayor Orman, a #BeTheBentonvilleDifference bookmark and a coin engraved with their name.

June Landscaping Award Goes to Bob and Shelly Stoker

The Residential Landscaping of the Month Award recognizes those who have improved and maintained the

exterior landscaping of their home and is intended to inspire others to take pride in their home, improve their landscaping, and to improve Bentonville's quality of life.

The winners for the month of June are Bob and Shelly Stoker, who reside at 302 SE 2nd St.

The Stoker's home, built around 1890, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as The Henry

House. The Stoker's love for the home and desire to see it restored to its one time prominence and stature have driven their work to create a landscape honoring Mr. Henry, his former home, and achievements. Their goal is for the home to demonstrate that important history through its gardens and upkeep.

To nominate a Bentonville property for a Residential or Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award, visit the city website at www.bentonvillear.com/499/Tree-Landscape-Committee.





BPL's Response to COVID-19

On March 16, Bentonville Public Library temporarily closed to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This difficult decision was the right response at the right time to protect citizens and staff.

During the closure, essential staff was hard at work providing virtual services to our patrons. During this time, the City of Bentonville custodian team diligently cleaned and sanitized the entire building. Building repairs were also completed and new protective sneeze guards were installed in customer service areas.



BPL librarians developed a comprehensive “COVID-19 Pandemic Procedure Manual” that was endorsed by the Library Advisory Board on May 6, 2020. The manual identifies a complete plan and leveled approach to reinstatement of library services, including, but not limited to: self-service pickup & returns, online stories, how to safely handle materials, facility set-up and certain protocols for staff and patrons at the Library.

As we move through this “new normal” together, the Library team asks our community to help us by continuing to practice patience, understanding and respect for guidelines that protect the health and safety of everyone.

The COVID-19 crisis is a difficult time for all, and while we can't go back, we can move forward together. Information about the Library's adjusted hours, services and protocols is available online at bentonvillelibrary.org.

New Resource! Access Video On Demand

Access Video On Demand is now available for BPL patrons! Thousands of family-friendly and educational videos to choose from 24/7! Videos include shows from Dr. Seuss, PBS, Sesame Street, National Geographic, History Channel and more. Visit our “Downloadables” page at bentonvillelibrary.org to get started. All you need is your library card. There are no use limits a mobile app is not required.

Free Meals for Kids

Last year, BPL served as a Summer Feeding Site and during this spring's school closure, our library was a drive-thru location for the free meals through Aramark and Bentonville Schools. We are proud to continue this partnership this summer. Drive-thru lunch will be available to kids 18 and younger, Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to Noon.



Summer Reading Program

**IMAGINE
YOUR
STORY**

Like most everything, this year's Summer Reading Program is different from before.

READsquared is a new online platform that allows patrons of all ages to register and log reading hours to earn virtual badges that celebrate their accomplishments.

In addition to the reading incentive program, online stories and virtual activities are offered! It's not too late to participate, so Imagine Your Story at bentonvillelibrary.org.

READsquared was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum & Library Services to the Arkansas State Library under the provisions of the CARES Act.

Be in the Know

Sign up online or call for our monthly eNewsletter and stay up-to-date on all things BPL! Follow us on social media!

Facebook: [bplfriendsfoundation](#)
Instagram: [bplfriendsfoundation](#)
Twitter: [BPL_FOL_BLF](#)



Under Construction

NW 3rd / Walton: Installing a traffic signal that includes protected left turn movements for NW 3rd St. This has been bid and awarded for construction.

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

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

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

I-49/N Walton (Exit 93): ARDOT is removing the roundabout and constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

ARDOT: Arkansas Department of Transportation

In the Works

Water Tower / 8th, Phase I: Extending SE 8th St. east to Water Tower Rd. Currently acquiring right-of-way and completing design. Construction bid expected this fall.

Water Tower / 8th, Phase II: Widening Water Tower Rd. south to SE 14th St. Currently acquiring right-of-way and completing design. Utility relocation expected to begin late this year.

S Main, Phase I SE 2nd to SE 8th: Currently designing to narrow travel lanes and add wider sidewalks.

SE / SW 8th Widening: Currently re-designing to widen 8th St. from SW I St. to Moberly Ln. to add bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Town Vu Bridge to SW I: Currently designing a continuous bicycle route from the west city limits on Town Vu Rd. connecting to 8th St.

NW 3rd, Elm Tree to N Walton: Currently designing a continuous bicycle and pedestrian route connecting Apple Gate Trail and N. Walton Trail.

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

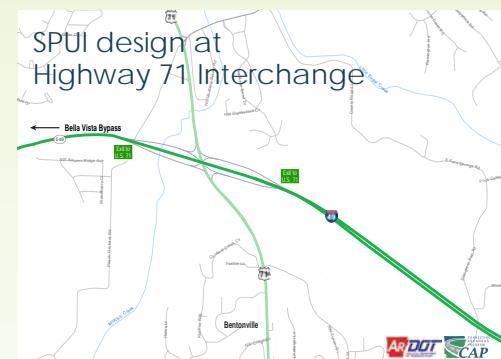
What is a SPUI?

Two major road construction projects in Bentonville include installation of a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI): S Walton at I-49 and N Walton at I-49.

This design technique is installed at highway interchanges to improve the flow and efficiency of large volumes of traffic. It condenses the traditional traffic signal on each side of the interchange to a single signal under or over the highway. The design allows left turn movements from both directions of the intersecting roadways to occur simultaneously.

Visit Bentonville's Transportation Department web page to watch a video animation of traffic flow in a SPUI.

www.bentonvillear.com/315/Transportation





PARKS & RECREATION

Quilt of Parks

The Quilt of Parks project originated from Bentonville's 10-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was adopted in 2017. The design project calls for weaving together five parks in the downtown area, Lawrence Plaza, Dave Peel Park, The Commons (currently a parking lot), Town Branch Park and the Downtown Bentonville Square. All of the new green spaces, as part of the Quilt of Parks, are envisioned to connect with a series of walkable streetscape and environments to extend the park setting throughout the downtown core of Bentonville. As Bentonville grows in population, there will be a demand for more flexible-use spaces that are able to host a growing number of events. The Quilt of Parks will expand the Downtown Square into a series of parks with unique offerings:



- Lawrence Plaza:** Upgraded as a gateway to Crystal Bridges and the natural ecosystems of the northern greenway trails.
- Dave Peel Park:** Reinvented as an event lawn with terraced outdoor living rooms for people to gather and play.
- The Commons:** A new "urban cool" space for events, social gatherings, play, food trucks, pavilions and cafes.



28th Street Park

In 2011, Cynthia Coughlin donated 25 acres of pasture land for a park in the southwest part of the city. This passive park will include a destination-style playground, a splash park, a dog park and the city's first dedicated cricket pitch. This park is positioned to be a public center and socialization space for much of the community. Integrated into the interconnected city trail system, persons of all ages will have the opportunity to walk or bike to the park and participate in passive or semi-formal recreation.



Old Tiger

Old Tiger Stadium is currently the only open for public use athletic track in Bentonville. Updates to this area will provide a restroom and shelter. This updated park will provide citizens with the option to walk, run and enjoy time with friends in a traditional resurfaced track. You will be able to clock your fastest mile, half mile or run your own marathon on this traditional $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile loop track. Conveniently lighted for the dark days of winter, or late evening summer runs, you will be able to safely see your way in this lighted track environment.



Lake Bentonville

Lake Bentonville is a 20 acre park located on SW 1 Street. Updates to the park include the replacement of the playground and pavilion with a modern design that meets current safety and accessibility standards while providing play value to a wider range of children. The updates will include shaded areas, walking trails, and accessible parking suitable for large vehicles or school buses. The 75+ acres of land north of Lake Bentonville Park is now privately owned but open to the public. This passive recreation space is planned with a pavilion, wetland boardwalks, fishing areas, and paved multi-use paths connecting to Lake Bentonville Park.



Planning & Development

Have you been counted?

[2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

Yes? Thank you! No? What are you waiting for?

The census questionnaire is easy, can be completed online at [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov), is confidential, and happens to be required by law.

Everyone who lives in Bentonville counts. We need your help to make sure Bentonville gets an accurate count of the population. This helps ensure that

Bentonville, and the State of Arkansas, receives its fair share of federal funding for road improvements, schools, hospitals, and public safety.

The data gathered from the census are used by the city to plan for future growth, by school districts to determine where new school facilities are needed, and by businesses when selecting locations.

Check out Bentonville's Census 2020 website to see our response rates to the 2020 census and how we compare with other cities and states.

<https://www.bentonvillear.com/1057/Census-2020>

54,909

Bentonville population according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 population estimates.



Fall Tree Giveaway – Saturday, Oct. 24th



The City of Bentonville is hosting its 20th consecutive tree giveaway on October 24th at the Downtown Activity Center from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For event details, please visit the city website.

www.bentonvillear.com/467/Fall-Tree-Giveaway

Keep drain inlets free of debris

The City of Bentonville Street Department diligently works to maintain drainage to prevent flooding and provide traffic safety. They inspect more than 60 street drains, culverts, inlet grates, weirs, and ditches before, during, and after significant storm events. The department removes debris such as trash, sediment, and leaves to keep the drain inlets working properly. Scheduling and timing are dictated by the forecast and/or severity of the storm event location.



Areas known to periodically flood are inspected with priority.

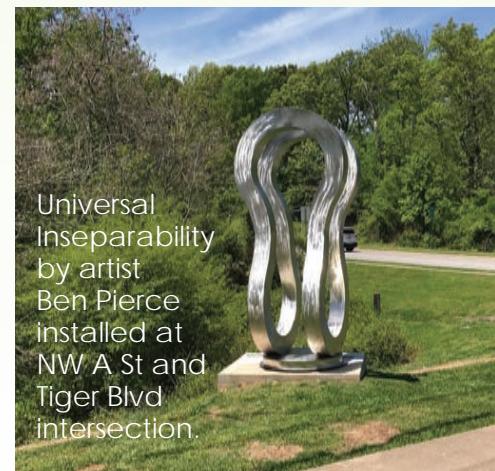
If you see a public storm drain that is blocked and/or flooding, please use [Bentonville 311](https://bentonvillear.com/311) and enter details under the Flood and Drainage category. For emergencies, call 271-3130.

By the Numbers: First Quarter 2020

	No.	Change from 2019
building permits	407	▼ 6%
houses started	80	▼ 36%
multi-family units started	140	▼ 61%
commercial started	10	▲ 66%

Building Permits 2019 vs. 2020

	2019	2020	Change
April	133	125	▼ 6%
May	165	115	▼ 30%





PUBLIC SAFETY



Bentonville District Court now allows public to resolve traffic citations online

Those who have received a traffic citation and have a court date with the Bentonville District Court in Bentonville, Arkansas now have another option. Members of the public can use an online system to resolve their citation without having to spend time in court at all.

This option allows people to be able to access the court system online and resolve their citations without having to travel great distances, take time off from work or rearrange family commitments.

Members of the public can check to see if they are eligible for online resolution for their citation by visiting www.courtinnovations.com/ARBDC. The online platform walks individuals through a series of qualifying questions and allows them to share their story online as if they were speaking in court.

RESOLVE YOUR CASE
ONLINE. ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.



Bentonville District Court wants to help you resolve your warrants or traffic tickets. **You don't even have to go to court.** Visit our website today!

COMPUTER. TABLET. SMARTPHONE.

COURTINNOVATIONS.COM/ARBDC

This new platform is the result of a joint project between Bentonville District Court staff and the City of Bentonville Staff Attorney. For more information, contact Bentonville District Court at 479-271-3120.

K-9 Spotlight

Our Police K9's are an incredible asset to the Police Department and the community. Each team, consisting of a dog and a handler, patrol our streets and our airport to keep us safe. These dogs receive extensive individual and team training throughout their career.

Bico and Kolyok are assigned to the Operations Division where they fulfill their roles in Narcotics Detection, Search and Handler Protection. Kali serves in our Bomb Squad. She is exclusively trained as an Explosive Detection K9 and supports the Bomb Squad as they serve over 17 counties.



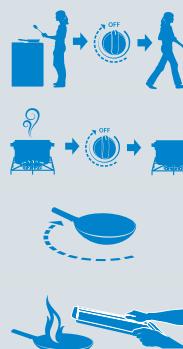
Cook Safely!

Prevent Kitchen Fires



Did you know?

Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!



- Stand by your pan: If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.



- Watch what you are cooking: Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.



- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove: Then no one can bump them or pull them over.



- Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

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



Letter (continued from Pg. 1)

time to build on our community's strong reputation to welcome all, work together, and lead our City and region to even greater accomplishments. We must understand our fears, listen and act with compassion, while having the confidence to move forward.

We will surely look back on this time and have learned much. How we respond as a community hinges on how each of us choose to be part of the solution. I hope this message strikes a chord with you and your words and actions to deliver the best possible outcome for all those around you. We must move forward together, as a community, to make sure we live each day with a sustained respect for all. I look forward to working with the

community to advance racial equality and work towards new projects and initiatives that will make our community even stronger and more connected.

Please remember to be safe and wear a mask when you cannot six-feet socially distance in our community as we work in partnership with the Governor's directives and CDC guidelines. I hope everyone will support the community-led "Our Bentonville. Be Safe. Be Smart." campaign as we emerge from this pandemic. My door is always open and I appreciate all of you who have reached out over the last few months and shown your concern and love for our strong, wonderful City.

Sincerely,
Mayor Orman



#BuildUpBentonville

#BuildUpBentonville is Mayor Orman's initiative to share ideas, resources and good news to help Bentonville citizens stay positive and connected to each other during these unprecedented times.

Visit www.bentonvillear.com/1158/BuildUpBentonville for useful tips, creative ideas, and helpful links. The information is provided with an emphasis on local businesses, restaurants and resources. Stay safe and support each other!



Mayor's Milk Initiative

In June, we were proud to give away over 6500 gallons of milk through the Mayor's Milk Initiative in partnership with Borden Dairy. Thirty-four nonprofit organizations received milk as well as residents in a community drive-through event provided by the Bentonville Fire Department and Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department.



Turn Around Don't Drown

Flash flooding events are common in Bentonville. Heavy rains come quickly and can become dangerous. Avoid low spots such as underpasses, valleys in country roads, and low water crossings. Never try to drive through flood waters. Sign up for free Benton County weather alerts at <http://bcalert.com/>.



REMINDERS

Trash Can Placement

Place trash cans on driveway or grass. Don't place them in the street where they can impede traffic or block sidewalks.

Large Item Disposal

Contact Republic Services to schedule a large item pick up at 855-4226. They will collect up to one large item per week, but remember to call before you put the item out.

Call Before You Dig

Call Arkansas 811 before you dig!
<http://www.arkonecall.com/>

Recycling

Did you know a recycled aluminum can is back on the grocery store shelf in as little as 60 days? Make sure to rinse your cans and put them in your recycle cart instead of the trash.

Submit Your 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.

Mow the R.O.W.

Help keep Bentonville clean and neat by mowing the right-of-way in front of your property. This is typically that area on the side of the sidewalk closest to the street.

