



FOCUS

OCTOBER 2020

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

Letter from Mayor Orman

The last few months have been very busy in Bentonville. The city staff has worked hard to listen, learn, and strives to lead a wonderful community in a year that has certainly presented many challenges. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with so many committed city employees and community members. I have been overwhelmed by the unquestionable strength and character of the citizens of our community. I am encouraged daily by the outpouring of support through heart-felt messages of gratitude, acts of generosity and words of encouragement and kindness. These powerful community statements set an example for all.

So much has changed over the past few months – the world around us, our neighborhoods, schools, gathering places, the businesses we frequent and our everyday routines. It is easy for distractions, criticism and stress to sneak in. But now, more than ever, we must focus on coming together and striving for a safe, healthy, and welcoming city for all that live, work, and play here. I recently had a friend send me this saying “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. The words certainly struck a chord with me and I hope they do with you as well.

I want to ask you to go with us together as we work to innovate and encourage opportunities for all. Help us reach long-term goals of connectivity, infrastructure, business retention, economic growth, quality city services and a high quality of life. Help us maintain a safe, healthy, and kind community that is always willing to spend time and energy to make our community better for all.

In an effort to promote a city in which neighbors wake up every single day and ask how they can help our Bentonville continue on the path to success, I am excited to announce the “*Get To Know Your Bentonville*” series. This series will focus on getting acquainted with city services and employees and connect you to your passions with

city-wide opportunities. The goal is to develop real relationships built on trust, connections, and getting things done. We need you to be a part of making our city even better. We will be communicating about upcoming opportunities for you to “*Get to Know Your Bentonville*.”

We have a wonderful city buzzing with life, charm, kindness, hard work, and humming with innovation. There is no doubt in my mind this combination will serve us well into the future. I know that when we all work together, we will make Bentonville the most successful and all around best city in America!

Below: Residents met officers at Bentonville Police Department’s *Coffee with a Cop* in September.



#BeTheBentonvilleDifference

Jason Jenkins Recognized with Spirit of Bentonville Award

One evening, Mayor Orman was scrolling through Facebook and came across a group from Bentonville gathering donations to take to Louisiana to help those impacted by Hurricane Laura. Jason Jenkins organized, coordinated and led the group of volunteers to Southern Louisiana the morning of September 2.

Originally from Louisiana, when Jason heard about the devastation from the hurricane, he immediately wanted to find a way to help. He announced that he was taking volunteers and supplies and was amazed by the outpouring of support and donations.

Mayor Orman honored Jason with the Spirit of Bentonville Award in recognition of his efforts and providing an excellent example of why the Spirit of Bentonville Award was initiated.



July & August Landscaping Awards

The July winners in the residential category were JD and Jennifer Joyce, who live at 711 W Central Ave. Built in 1915, the house had no landscaping or irrigation. The Joyce's hired a contractor and landscape designer to install the irrigation system and landscaping. Jennifer knew she wanted color and to accent the huge beautiful evergreen tree in the front yard.



The August winners were Jeff and Deborah McClelland, who live at 707 W Central Ave. The McClelland's really enjoy the experience of living downtown. The home was built in the late 1940's. They have been careful to maintain the original design and character of the residence. They are amateur landscapers but experiment a great deal and feel it is important to maintain a well-kept and nice appearance of their yard, especially since Central is an important thoroughfare to downtown. Their secret ingredient is the screened mulch from the Bentonville compost facility.



inspire others to take pride in their home, improve their landscaping, pick up litter, and to improve the quality of life in the City of Bentonville. For more information, visit the city website at www.bentonvillear.com/499/Tree-Landscape-Committee. Nominations are accepted May through October.

Keep Bentonville Beautiful: Clean the Streets Day Nov. 7

The City of Bentonville is participating in the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Great Arkansas Cleanup™ by organizing a city-wide "Clean the Streets Day" on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon.



Every year, thousands of Arkansans volunteer to remove trash and discarded debris from Arkansas's roadways, shorelines, parks and other public areas during this statewide community improvement campaign.

Volunteers are needed to help pick up litter along Bentonville city streets, trails, creek beds and in drainage ways. All supplies are provided.

For details and to sign up, visit: www.bentonvillear.com/545/Volunteer-Program.



Bentonville Public Library

From the Library Director



Library Director
Hadi Dudley

As we welcome a few new faces to the library team, I am grateful for the commitment of our staff who have been here through it all! The last several months have been challenging, but I am proud of everyone who works at BPL for their hard work, adaptability and willingness to serve.

Thank you to all our wonderful patrons who daily express their gratitude! We appreciate your kind words and keep your safety in mind with everything we do.

A friendly reminder about overdue fees: BPL began accepting returns mid-May and opened the building on June 9. While we continue to follow certain protocols related to quarantining materials, late items are subject to overdue fees. Items are “backdated” to the return date, so patrons get credit for the day items are dropped off. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

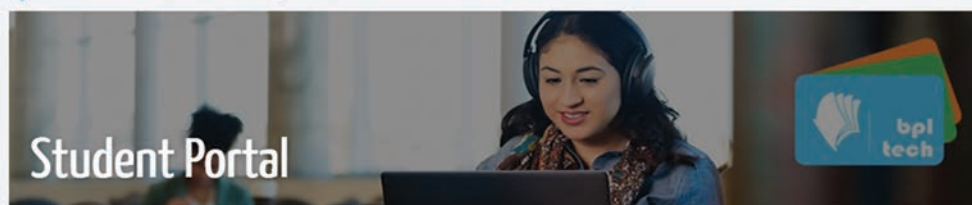
New to Flipster – Consumer Reports!



Consumer Reports is now available online through Bentonville Public Library! Checkout the monthly magazine on Best Buys with unbiased ratings on thousands of products! Digital access provided through Flipster. Download the Flipster app or visit bentonvillelibrary.org/downloadables to get started.

Supporting our Students

- *Students:* Research by grade-level resources for studying at home.
- *Parents:* Get free tutoring help for your student with Tutor.com.
- *Teachers:* Access lesson plans and curriculum support.
- Log on at bentonvillelibrary.org/student-portal.



Student Portal

Pre-K Grades

Grades K-4

Grades 5-6

Grades 7-8

Grades 9-12

College

Downloadables

Educators

Tech Card Info

BINGE BOXES Now Available at BPL!

Patrons can check out a box of binge-worthy films, packaged as a uniquely-themed set.



BPL Xpress Bags

BPL Xpress Bags contain books and resources carefully curated by BPL staff to fit your



specific needs and interests. Visit bentonvillelibrary.org to request a bag today!

Be in the Know

Sign up for our monthly eNewsletter and stay up-to-date on all things BPL! Sign-up at www.bentonvillelibrary.org or by calling us at 479-271-3192.

Follow us on social media!



- *Facebook:* [bplfriendsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/bplfriendsfoundation)
- *Instagram:* [bplfriendsfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/bplfriendsfoundation)
- *Twitter:* [BPL_FOL_BLF](https://twitter.com/BPL_FOL_BLF)

***Note:** BPL mobile app service ended. The library will offer a new mobile app option soon. All library services are still available on our mobile website at bentonvillelibrary.org.

Transportation & Streets

Master Drainage Plan

The Master Drainage Plan is in the design phase. The designs will be used to implement recommendations from the initial phase of the drainage study. The focus will be regional detention basins and collection systems to reduce localized flooding in the downtown area.

What is the Right-of-Way (R.O.W.)?



For most properties, land ownership technically extends to the middle of the street. However, the city has rights over the land between the center of the street to an area beyond the edge of the street, extending into the yard. This area is called the *right-of-way*.

This strip of land is intended to be used for roads, crosswalks, sidewalks, trails, drainage structures or utilities. The right-of-way allows the city to maintain city streets, ensure safe vehicle and pedestrian travel, store snow, and install and maintain other public infrastructure.

Any private development that proposes work within this right-of-way must first obtain a ROW/Work Zone permit. To learn more visit www.bentonvillear.com/762/Right-of-Way-Permit

Under Construction

- NW 3rd / Walton: Installing a traffic signal that includes protected left turn movements for NW 3rd St. traffic.
- Town Vu Bridge: Replacing the current one-lane bridge on Town Vu Rd. with a box culvert that will allow for two-lanes of traffic.
- 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 has removed the roundabout and is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

ARDOT: Arkansas Department of Transportation

In the Works

- Water Tower / SE 8th, Phase I: Extending SE 8th St. east to Water Tower Rd. Currently acquiring right-of-way and completing design. Construction bid expected in 2021.
- Water Tower / SE 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 landscaping and 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 SW 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.

Master Street Plan Update

The Master Street Plan is being updated to include the latest information for new developments, additional traffic, public feedback, annexations, and future growth. The list of recommended projects and roadway improvements will help the city plan for critical improvements and continued growth.





PARKS & RECREATION

Team Run Bentonville

Team Run Bentonville is here to keep you motivated year round! Let us help support the race of you vs. you. Stay connected to your running community even when you can't physically be with them. Your monthly membership includes:

- Team tech shirt
- Team decal
- Entry into our Mileage Club with custom medal
- Professional coaching
- Running challenges with custom coins
- Exclusive members only forum
- Nutrition tips
- Local route suggestions
- Discounts on all Run Bentonville events
- Monthly newsletter



Individual Plan: \$15/month

Family Plan: \$30/month

Learn more and register at runbentonville.com

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, splash park, 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 Stadium Construction

Old Tiger Stadium will soon be undergoing renovations to improve the experience of our patrons using the only public use athletic track in Bentonville.

Updates to this facility include a restroom and shelter. The track will be resurfaced to allow citizens the option to walk, run and enjoy time with friends on a traditional quarter mile track. In addition, lighting will be added around the track for the dark days of winter or late evening summer runs. Patrons will now be able to safely see their way in this lighted track environment!





Planning & Development

Planning 101: Public Hearings



Have you ever seen one of these signs posted on someone's property and wondered what it was about? These signs announce that the property owner is either asking for a rezoning, conditional use, variance or an amendment to the future land use map. A public hearing is part of the review process for those actions, providing the opportunity for the public to speak to city officials about the item or project.

At the meeting, the chairperson will open the public hearing for each item separately. Those wishing to speak will be asked to approach the podium and state their name and address. The chairperson may establish a time limit for individual comments.

When speaking at a public hearing, be informed, prepared, concise and respectful. It also helps to coordinate with others who share your opinion.

When all who wish to speak have done so, the chairperson will close the public hearing. Once the public hearing is closed, further public comment is not accepted unless the city officials vote to reopen the public hearing.

Public hearing notices are also published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as well as in the Planning Commission and City Council agendas that are available the Friday before the regularly scheduled meetings. To learn about a public hearing, contact the Planning Department at (479)271-3122; planning@bentonvillear.com or www.BentonvillePlanning.com.

Sign up to automatically receive an email or text notification when agendas are published.

www.bentonvillear.com/list.aspx#agendaCenter

Bentonville's Open Heart

In August 2019, the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) issued a call for proposals for installation of permanent artwork in the roundabout at SW Bright Rd. and SW Gator Blvd. The committee was looking for proposals that would enhance the intersection; represent Bentonville's artistic culture; reflect the education and opportunities offered at the nearby schools; and add variety to Bentonville's public art inventory.

The PAAC unanimously selected Matthew Duffy's "Open Heart" out of 21 proposals submitted. The artwork is an eight-foot wide by eight-foot tall open-air heart created from aluminum diamond plate. Algorithms and the latest technology created this 3-D heart using triangular panes. The laser-cut diamond plate strips create texture while the open triangle shapes allow the viewer to see into and through the sculpture.

The PAAC selected this artwork because it met the criteria, offers an educational opportunity about 3-D design, is representative of the school district embracing the Jessie Lewis "Choose Love" movement, and reflects one of the core principles of the Bentonville Community Plan to be a welcoming and diverse community.

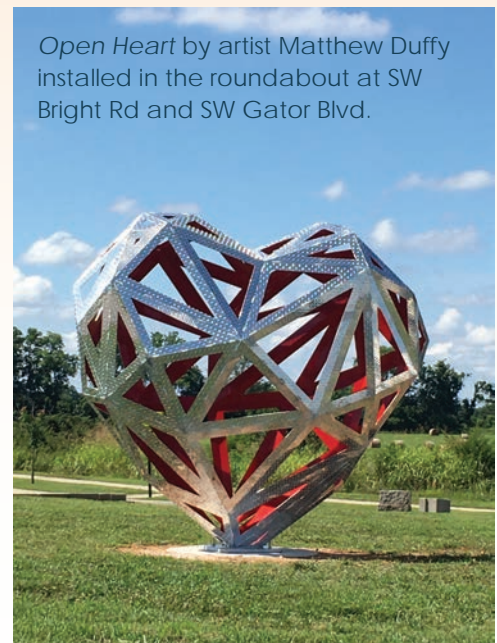
By the Numbers: Second Quarter 2020

	No.	Change from 2019
building permits	389	▼ 17%
houses started	57	▼ 60%
multi-family units started	106	▲ 194%
commercial started	4	▼ 73%

Fall Tree Giveaway Saturday, Oct. 24th

The City of Bentonville is hosting its 20th consecutive tree giveaway on Oct. 24th at Memorial Park from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

For event details, please visit the city website: www.bentonvillear.com/467/Fall-Tree-Giveaway



Open Heart by artist Matthew Duffy installed in the roundabout at SW Bright Rd and SW Gator Blvd.



PUBLIC SAFETY



Unemployment Insurance Fraud

As of the beginning of August, the Bentonville Police Department has taken 273 identity theft cases this year, many of which were unemployment related.

What to Look For

According to the FBI, the public should be on the lookout for the following suspicious activities:

- Receiving communications regarding unemployment insurance forms when you have not applied for unemployment benefits.
- Unauthorized transactions on your bank or credit card statements related to unemployment benefits.
- Any fees involved in filing or qualifying for unemployment benefits.
- Unsolicited inquiries related to unemployment benefits.
- Fictitious websites and social media pages mimicking those of government agencies.

How to Protect Yourself

- Be wary of telephone calls and text messages, letters, websites, or emails that require you to provide your personal information or other sensitive information.
- Make yourself aware of methods fraudsters are using to obtain personally identifiable information.
- Monitor your bank accounts on a regular basis and request your credit report at least once a year to look for any fraudulent activity.
- Immediately report unauthorized transactions to your financial institution or credit card provider.

If You Suspect You Are a Victim

- Immediately contact the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit records.
- Notify the IRS by filing an Identity Theft Affidavit (IRS Form 14039) through [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or [identitytheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).
- Notify your local law enforcement agency.
- Report the fraud to the state unemployment insurance agencies as well as your employer's HR department.

A large-scale scam involving phony unemployment benefits claims has been making headlines. Criminals, possibly based overseas, are filing claims for benefits, using the names and personal information of people who have not lost their jobs.

The investigation is ongoing, but this much is known: the fraud is affecting tens of thousands of people, slowing the delivery of benefits to people in real need, and costing states hundreds of millions of dollars.

- Federal Trade Commission



- Change smoke/carbon monoxide detector batteries and test alarms. Change batteries when Daylight savings time changes. Test all detectors monthly and inspect fire extinguishers.
- Fully check and service heating devices before turning up the heat.
- Have your HVAC system serviced and cleaned by a certified HVAC contractor. Check and replace furnace filters with HEPA filters.
- Ensure that space heaters have three feet of space around it and are plugged directly into a wall socket and not extension cords.
- Clean gutters and downspouts. Remove leaves and other flammable debris from around the home.
- Create a fire escape plan from all locations of the home and practice often.
- Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Know what to do in case of a grease fire.
- Know where your extinguisher is located and how to use it.

Source: www.ftc.gov (2020)

Fall Leaf Collection Program Returns

Schedule pickup between Nov. 30 and Dec. 11

The City of Bentonville will conduct its annual fall leaf collection program this year, but, just like everything else in 2020, it will be a little different.

Leaf collection this year will be done by call in or e-mail notification only. The program will start Monday, Nov. 30 and run through Friday, Dec. 11.

This collection is for bagged leaves only. City crews will not collect bags that have not been scheduled through the contacts listed here. Property owners are responsible for disposal of leaves outside of the collection program.

To schedule a pickup, or for more information, contact:

Bart Mahony

Public Works Maintenance Manager
479-271-5945

bmahony@bentonvillear.com

Jerome Todd

Public Works Maintenance Assistant Manager
479-271-5945

jtodd@bentonvillear.com

Program Rules:

Single-family and duplex only. This program applies only to single family and duplex residential properties. Commercial properties and apartment complexes are not included in this program.

Bagged leaves only.

- No waste other than leaves will be collected. No limbs will be collected.
- Leaves must be in bags. Owner is responsible for bags. The city will not supply or sell bags.
- All bags shall be securely closed.

Correctly placed bags only.

- Bags must be placed within 10' from curb or edge of pavement/street. Please place at a location away from your normal trash collection.
- All bags shall be placed at the time a request for pick up is submitted.
- Do not place bags in drainage ditches where they may adversely affect drainage or present a safety hazard. Place on top of bank away from street.
- City forces will not enter private property to collect bags. Bags not placed near street will not be collected.



Self-Disposal

Residents may dispose of leaves themselves at the city's Compost Facility at 2000 NW A Street. The Compost Facility hours are Mon. - Sat., 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The facility accepts grass, leaves, limbs and brush from Bentonville residents

with a copy of a utility bill and photo ID. The Compost Facility will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. The facility will be open normal operating hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on Saturday, Nov. 28.

City Works to Reduce Flood Insurance Rates

The City of Bentonville is a participant in the Community Rating System (CRS) sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This program allows the city to work toward a 10% flood insurance rate reduction for everyone who has a flood insurance policy in Bentonville.

As part of this program, the City of Bentonville will provide flood related information at no charge. The Bentonville Special Flood Hazard Areas are mapped on the city's GIS (<https://bentonvillear.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>) and click on the FEMA NFHL (National Flood Hazard Layer). Historical floodplain, wetland

data, and watershed information are also available. Additional information can be requested, including:

- flood insurance obtainability,
- floodplain regulations,
- limited historical flood information,
- floodproofing ideas,
- elevation certificates, and
- Flood Insurance Rate Map data.

Request information online at Bentonville311.com or contact Janet Paith, stormwater coordinator at 479-271-3168 or by email at jpaith@bentonvillear.com

Please provide a current address, a subdivision name/ block/ lot number or a tax parcel identification number.

To report a service concern online visit:

BENTONVILLE311.COM



connecting citizens to services

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.