



# FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2021

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

479-271-5966 • [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com)

## Letter from Mayor Orman



As we embark on 2021, like many of you, I have been working on setting big goals for the coming year. In an effort to set these goals, I have probably never focused as much on what I have learned from the previous year. There is no doubt that 2020 brought unanticipated challenges, extreme unpredictability and it was probably the most difficult year that many of us have experienced in our lifetimes. As I reflect on lessons learned and prepare for the future, I also can't help but be truly inspired by the power of resilience, innovation, selflessness, and teamwork that I saw shine throughout our community in 2020 and into the new year.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to the Bentonville community for your collaboration, cooperation, and encouragement. You are the heart of our city and your love and care has continued to shine bright in every situation. I also want to express my upmost appreciation to all City of Bentonville employees for your dedication, commitment, and service to our community each and every day.

The outstanding work you have continued to perform in challenging circumstances exemplifies what building and caring for your community is all about. May God bless you and your families and our great City of Bentonville.

In conclusion, I want to leave you with a word that I have chosen to focus on as we embark on 2021 together. That word is HOPE. What 2020 has taught me, among many things, is that hope can and will motivate us to work harder than ever before for a brighter future for all those around us. My hope this year will be focused on accomplishing the tasks at hand to move the city forward and continuing to

always provide better services, amenities, and a thriving and caring business and community atmosphere. I will be persistent in understanding proven concepts that stimulate successful cities and build upon the solid foundation we have all worked diligently to foster. I am committed to listening, learning and leading and hope you will all join me in these efforts. As we continue our journey together in 2021, our HOPE must continue to shine brightly in our commitment of making BENTONVILLE the best place for all to live, work, and play! Happy New Year!

All My Best-  
Mayor Orman



**[www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com)**

For the most up-to-date information, visit the city website at [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com).

To report a service concern online, visit [www.bentonville311.com](http://www.bentonville311.com).

To sign up for notifications when alerts, information and meeting agendas are published on the website, go to *Notify Me®* at:

<http://www.bentonvillear.com/list.aspx>.

Follow us on social media.

**BENTONVILLE311.COM**



#BentonvilleGov

# #BeTheBentonvilleDifference



Mayor recognizes Mary Nell Plumlee.



Joy Boldin receives Spirit of Bentonville Award.



Creekstone and Woods Creek win Neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest.



Robert and Jeanie Monroe Landscape Award recipients.

## Mayor Recognizes Mary Nell Plumlee and Joy Bolding with the Spirit of Bentonville Award

Bentonville Mayor Stephanie Orman surprised resident Mary Nell Plumlee with the Spirit of Bentonville award. Mary is a physical therapist who uses technology to continue exercise classes for Parkinson's patients after the pandemic limited in-person sessions. She does this on her own time and without compensation. Her patients truly appreciate her and so do we. Thank you Mary Nell Plumlee for being a great example of the Spirit of Bentonville!

Joy Bolding is another special person who exemplifies the Spirit of Bentonville. She is always finding ways to serve her community. When city public lobbies opened back up in the spring and PPE was low, she immediately provided city staff with homemade masks. In July, she worked with area youth to prepare gift baskets, gift cards and car washing for emergency responders and hospital staff. To top off her year of care, she coordinated donations and preparations for 1,000 boxes of food for Community Care Day in December. Thank you Joy Bolding for a well-deserved recognition with the Spirit of Bentonville Award!

*If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award visit:*

<https://www.bentonvillear.com/599/The-Spirit-of-Bentonville-Award>.

## Woods Creek and Creekstone Neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

The Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program introduced the first annual Neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest in 2020. The contest was open to all neighborhoods in Bentonville and nine neighborhoods entered.

Woods Creek Subdivision won the Most Holiday Spirit Award with the most participating homes. Creekstone Subdivision won the People's Choice Award based on the most votes from the public.

## Robert and Jeanie Monroe Receive Landscape Award

The Residential Landscape of the Month winners for September 2020 are Robert and Jeanie Monroe, who reside at 606 Baylor Street.

The Monroe's have called College Place home since retiring from the Chicago area. Membership at the Chicago Botanical Gardens instilled a love of gardens that they now seek to develop at their home. From container and vegetable gardens to perennial and annual gardens, their landscape suggests serenity and a beauty of diverse plantings, with an emphasis on all things that provide colorful blooms.

The award was created to recognize residents who have improved and maintained the exterior landscaping of their homes and to inspire others to take pride in their home landscaping.

More info: <http://www.bentonvillear.com/466/Tree-Landscape-Committee>



# Bentonville Public Library

479.271.3192 • <http://bentonvillelibrary.org/>

## American Art Books Donated to BPL

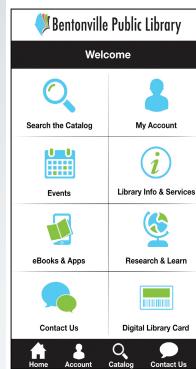


Several new books about American art were donated to Bentonville Public Library as part of a unique pilot project to distribute art books to Arkansas libraries. The contribution was made possible through a gift by the Alice L. Walton Foundation through the Arkansas State Library and Arkansas Center for the Book in collaboration with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Over twenty beautiful works, valued at more than \$1,400, are featured through a special display and available for checkout. Some titles include African-American Art; Women, Art and Society; Native American Art in the Twentieth Century; and Crystal Bridges' publication Celebrating the American Spirit.

## New Mobile App

The Library is pleased to launch a new mobile app, available soon in Android and Apple markets. The app features everything about the library and special services, including: patron account review, reservation of materials, a library card wallet and more! The new app is customized for tablets too, so BPL can travel with you everywhere! BPL's mobile app is developed by CapiraMobile, owned by OCLC, and is tailored specifically for the library industry.



## Easy Ways to Access Your Library

BPL is here for our community - offering convenient methods to read, explore and learn. Visit our website to find the option that best fits your library needs. Some services are available onsite during open hours, others are available 24/7 from anywhere!

- Online library card registration
- Account renewals via email
- Self-Service Pickups & Returns
- Xpress Bags to Go!
- Virtual programs and services such as book clubs, workshops and more.
- Binge Boxes for checkout
- Downloadables & eLearning
- BPL Tech Cards & Student Portal
- Stories Online with BPL



Despite the challenges we all faced, BPL's Top-5 highlights are worth celebrating!

1. BPL served patrons safely with virtual offerings, digital collections, online storytimes and new on-site pickup options.
2. BPL circulated the most eBooks and downloadable audios ever with 108,898 checkouts!
3. The Library hosted Bentonville Schools' and Aramark's free drive-thru food program.
4. The City of Bentonville acquired additional land suitable for the Library's future expansion.
5. BPL's Needs Assessment Study began last fall. Watch for the final report ... coming soon!

## Virtual Book Clubs for All Ages!

Register online in advance to pick up your book and get details about the Zoom club meetings. Registration is required and space may be limited. Clubs meet monthly.

### *Cover to Cover Book Club*

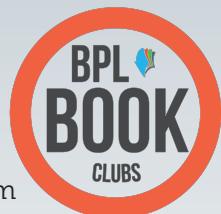
4th - 6th graders

2nd Monday; 5pm

### *Teen Book Club*

7th - 12th graders

2nd Wednesday; 5pm



### *First Edition Adult Book Club*

Adults

2nd Tuesday; 12pm or 6pm

### *Books on Main Adult Book Club*

Adults

3rd Wednesday; 12pm or 6pm

Special thanks to Friends of the Bentonville Library and the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library for supporting BPL's book clubs.

Stay tuned for information about future book clubs, including Young at Heart Adult Book Club and the Mayor's Book Club.



 **Bentonville Public Library**

# Transportation & Streets

479-271-3131 • [www.bentonvillear.com/315/Transportation](http://www.bentonvillear.com/315/Transportation)

## Can the City clean my ditch?

Sometimes the city receives requests to clean out overgrown ditches or drainage ways. However, in most cases, property owners are responsible for keeping drainage ditches free and clear of debris.

City Code 2006-167 Article 200 C.1 and C.8 cover drainage system maintenance. The owner of any private drainage system shall maintain the system to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants. This maintenance shall include, but is not limited to, sediment removal, bank erosion repairs, maintenance of vegetative cover, and removal of debris from pipes and structures.

Every person owning or occupying property through which an open drainage channel passes shall keep and maintain that part of the drainage channel within the property free of trash, debris, excessive vegetation, and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate, or retard the flow of water through the drainage channel.

Erosion is a natural process which causes blockages. If the ditches and drainage ways are not maintained on a regular basis, the repairs will become more difficult and expensive. In some cases, the maintenance can be physically demanding or require specialized equipment.

### Complete

**Town Vu Bridge:** Replaced the current one-lane bridge on Town Vu Rd. with a box culvert that allows for two-lanes of traffic.



### Under Construction

**NW 3rd / Walton:** Installing a traffic signal that includes protected left turn movements for NW 3rd St. 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 this year.

**Water Tower / SE 8th, Phase II:** Widening Water Tower Rd. south to SE 14th St. Currently acquiring right-of-way, completing design, and starting utility relocation.

**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.



# Parks & Recreation

479-464-PARK (7275) • [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com)

## Camp Bentonville Offers Fun & Safe Programs



Offering a fun and safe environment to learn, explore, create, and play, Bentonville Parks and Recreation has an exciting line-up of 2021 spring break and summer programs.

From Camp Soccer to Camp Mad Science to Camp Adventure to Camp Triathlon, there is an activity and opportunity for every camper ages 4-16. Visit [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com) for specific program details, such as dates, times, costs and registration.

## Youth Sports Registration Open Now

The Spring Season for youth baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 29.

Register on the website: [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com) or register in person: Downtown Activity Center (215 SW A Street) by February 24, 2021.

As of 2021, Bentonville Parks and Recreation will officially assume the administrative responsibilities of the Bentonville Youth Baseball program. This includes registration, scheduling, league organization and operation.

Moving forward, the Bentonville Youth Baseball Board will help guide the baseball program by giving direction and advice to the programming staff at Bentonville Parks and Recreation. During this transition, players and parents can expect the same exceptional service, organization, and level of play that they have become accustomed to.

Registration is also ongoing for additional youth programming including: swim lessons, recreational swim teams, volleyball lessons, babysitting training, and more at the Bentonville Community Center. In March, Bentonville Parks

and Recreation will kick off tournament season at the ballparks with several baseball and softball tournaments booked throughout the spring and summer months. For more information on any youth programs, visit [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com) or call 479.464.PARK (7275).



## Bentonville Half Marathon

The Run Bentonville Half Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, on the Bentonville Square. The premier running event of Northwest Arkansas will include a traditional 13.1 mile race in addition to a relay and 5k option. Please visit [rung Bentonville.com](http://rung Bentonville.com) for registration and event information. Races have been modified to allow a safe and fun running experience.



Mark your calendars for other events in the signature Run Bentonville Race Series:

Valentines 5k/8k Feb. 13

Irish 5k/10k Mar. 13



Irish 5k/10k

# Planning & Development

479.271.3122 • [bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services](http://bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services)

## By the Numbers: 2020

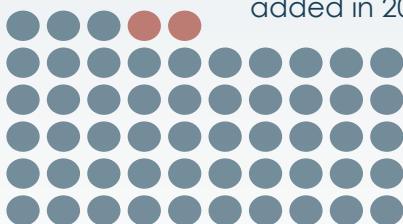
	No.	Change from 2019
building permits	1,797	▲ 2.7%
houses started	481	▲ 2.1%
multi-family units started	687	▲ 13.9%
residential units completed	929	▼ 44.4%
commercial started	43	▼ 17.3%

Population Estimate\*

**54,819**

Jan. 1, 2021

1,948 residents  
added in 2020



\*City of Bentonville in-house estimate.

## Development Code Changes

In 2020, City Council approved nine code amendments. Two of those were major updates to the Zoning Code and Land Development Code. The remaining seven were related to specific issues, including noise, group homes, detention ponds, accessory structures, performance bonds, run-off mitigation, and outdoor dining in public parking spaces during the pandemic. *More info: <http://www.bentonvillear.com/198/Code-Amendments>*

## By the Numbers: 2020 Development Activity

The projects submitted to the Current Planning division serve as an indicator for future construction levels. Based on the number of projects submitted, construction levels are likely to be at an all-time high in 2021.

The Planning Department processed 364 projects, up 46% from 2019. This is the highest number of items coming through the department in ten years. Nearly 42% of all items are zoning related and the remaining 58% are development items.

*More info: <http://www.bentonvillear.com/254/Annual-Reports>*

## 2020 Record Year for Art Installations



The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) had an active year installing and selecting artwork. A temporary piece titled *Universal Inseparability* by Ben Pierce, approved in 2019, was installed at the corner of Tiger Blvd and NW A Street in Spring of 2020. *Open Heart* by Matthew Duffy was placed in the roundabout at Bright Road and Gator Boulevard in June.

During the summer, the committee issued a Call for NWA Artists to support the local art community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They selected two pieces totaling \$14,050. The first is a permanent sculpture and landscape display titled *The Almost Forgotten Osage Prairie* by Jonathan Perrodon installed at Lake Bentonville Park. The second is a temporary fabric and poem piece titled *Guide, these, my hands* by Danielle Hatch and Traci Rae Manos to be installed in Train Station Park this Spring.

They also approved several proposals from outside organizations, including *Flight* by Bob Doster at Lake Bentonville Park, *ArtFeeds Sunshine School Mural* at Citizens Park, and *Box Turtle* by Stephen Feilbach on the All-American Trail.

*More info: <http://www.bentonvillear.com/464/Public-Art-Advisory-Committee>*

## Great Neighborhoods Partnership Grows

The Great Neighborhoods Partnership program expanded in 2020. Two neighborhoods joined the program, which now has seven neighborhood partners. The Neighborhood Advisory Committee was formed to work with the city on neighborhood issues. And, the program sponsored the first Neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest with nine neighborhoods entered. The award for Most Holiday Spirit went to Woods Creek and the People's Choice Award went to Creekstone Subdivision. (See article on Page 2)

*More info: [www.BentonvilleGreatNeighborhoods.com](http://www.BentonvilleGreatNeighborhoods.com)*





# Public Safety



479-271-3170 • [www.bentonvillear.com/342/Police-Department](http://www.bentonvillear.com/342/Police-Department)

479-271-3151 • [www.bentonvillear.com/214/Fire-Department](http://www.bentonvillear.com/214/Fire-Department)



## COVID-19 Resources

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has a call center to answer questions from health care providers and the public about the novel coronavirus. During normal business hours (8:00am – 4:30pm) urgent and non-urgent calls, please call 1-800-803-7847.

More info: [healthy.arkansas.gov](http://healthy.arkansas.gov)

## Small Claims Mediation

Bentonville District Court has kicked off the fourth year of their Small Claims mediation program. The program is available in part, thanks to a grant from the Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission in Little Rock. The program offers Small Claims Plaintiffs and Defendants an opportunity to creatively find a resolution with a trained mediator – all for free.

If a resolution cannot be met, both parties have the chance to have their case heard before Judge Ray Bunch in the courtroom. Several local attorneys offer their services and experiences, helping others to find ways to bridge the gap outside the courtroom. The program offers a wide range of solutions, which can ultimately result in a legally-binding agreement.

The program gives litigants and the court another tool for resolving disputes. Mediation also allows for alternative solutions not often available in traditional court environments, such as creative payment arrangements and mediated settlement agreements which, if followed through by the parties, leaves no judgment of record against the defendant.

More info: <http://www.bentonvillear.com/193/Small-Claims-Civil>



## COVID-19 Resources

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has a call center to answer questions from health care providers and the public about the novel coronavirus. During normal business hours (8:00am – 4:30pm) urgent and non-urgent calls, please call 1-800-803-7847.

More info: [healthy.arkansas.gov](http://healthy.arkansas.gov)

## Spring Fire Safety

### Dryers

- Clean out the vent pipe each year.



### Grilling

- Make sure the grill is properly cleaned. 20% of all grill structure fires are due to grills not being properly cleaned.



### Outdoor fire pits & chimneys

- Never leave young children unattended by a fire pit.
- Keep an extinguishing source nearby, such as a fire extinguisher, water hose, or bucket of water.
- Have your chimney inspected once per year. Now is a good time to do this.

### Smoke alarms

- Change batteries in the spring when the time changes.
- Test them once a month.

More info: <https://www.bentonvillear.com/961/Fire-Safety-Education>

# Spring Tree Giveaway April 17



Photo courtesy of Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

The Bentonville Tree and Landscape Committee is hosting the 21st consecutive tree giveaway to Bentonville residents. It is scheduled for April 17th at the Municipal Complex, 3200 SW Municipal Drive from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

*More info:*

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

## 2021 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, and upcoming initiatives. The meeting schedule is as follows:

### Ward 1

Feb. 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In-person: Community Center

Virtual: Zoom

### Ward 2

May 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In-person: Community Center

Virtual: Zoom

### Ward 3

August 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In-person: Community Center

Virtual: Zoom

### Ward 4

October 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In-person: Community Center

Virtual: Zoom

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](http://www.bentonvillear.com/148/Officials).

## Stay Safe

We ask for your continued diligence in wearing face coverings and social distancing in public. Reduce your chances of contracting the virus to help relieve our first responders, nurses, doctors, and hospital staff.

Visit [www.bentonvillear.com/1158/BuildUpBentonville](http://www.bentonvillear.com/1158/BuildUpBentonville) for useful tips, creative ideas, and helpful links for managing the pandemic. The information is provided with an emphasis on local businesses, restaurants and resources. Stay safe and support each other!

## REMINDERS

### 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.

### 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.

### Recycling Best Practice

If you can poke your finger through it, don't recycle. The plastic is too soft and flimsy to be recycled. It would get tangled in the sorting machinery and jam up the operation.

## Paperless Bills

The City of Bentonville does offer a paperless option for utility customers. All customers can access their bills online at:

[www.invoicecloud.com/bentonvillear](http://www.invoicecloud.com/bentonvillear)

To sign up, send an email to:

[egovutility@bentonvillear.com](mailto:egovutility@bentonvillear.com) type "Paperless" in the subject line and include your account number in the message.

## Pay Utilities by Phone

To pay utility bills by phone anytime, call (479)271-3100 and press 1. Be prepared to provide your utility account number and your credit/debit card information.

*More info:*

(479)271-3100

[egovutility@bentonvillear.com](mailto:egovutility@bentonvillear.com)

