



# FOCUS

JUNE 2021

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

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

## Letter from Mayor Orman

First let me say "Thank You" to the voters of Bentonville for supporting the bond extension. My sincere and deepest thanks to all who gave input and helped us design a slate of projects that would address many of the most pressing needs of the city and be approved by the voters.

I acknowledge and respect that our voters have approved this tax extension with the expectation that the money will be spent efficiently and carefully to produce approved projects. We will meet that expectation. The city staff also thoughtfully acknowledges that the bond extension is

an investment in the future of our community. As we move forward, we have been, and will continue to seek community input while involving the public in the progress of all projects.

Having community support to invest in our city is just one of the many vital pieces to a successful Bentonville future. A strong sense of place, livability, and community are all important pieces of the community and things that everyone can have a long-term influence on. It's important for every person to have that sense of community and enjoy where they live,

work and play. Studies of cities where residents express high shared trust, responsibility, and reciprocity have been consistently associated with a number of positive characteristics.

One of the questions we ask often at the city is; "Will this help us build a stronger sense of community?" When we get this answer right, the rewards are easy to see with an increased propensity to share knowledge, increased measures and quality of interactions, better behavior and respect for one another, as well as increased retention and use of public spaces. Simply put, when we are good neighbors, we all benefit.

With this thought in mind, I hope you will take the Get-To-Know-Your-Nighbor Challenge. Whoever you are, whatever your personality, set aside any hesitation and make a commitment to really get to

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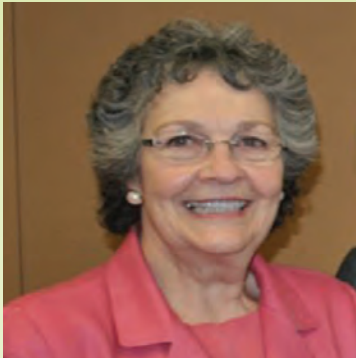
*Administrative Services moved into a new building at 1000 SW 14th Street earlier this year.*

# #BeTheBentonvilleDifference

## Spirit of Bentonville Award Winners

### February Award: Wylene Cohagan

Mrs. Wylene recently celebrated her 85th birthday and she exemplifies the Spirit of Bentonville award in every way.



In 1972, she was the Ecumenical Chairman of the Bentonville Methodist Church when she asked her pastor if she could invite other church members to a meeting to discuss community needs. Ecumenical Friends held rummage sales and other fundraising events to raise needed monies and other donations for the disadvantaged. From this, on April 29, 1976, Helping Hands Thrift store opened in the historic Massey Hotel building located at 121 W. Central.

Today, Helping Hands is a non-profit organization operated as a partnership of 18 churches from throughout Benton County and operates one of the largest food pantries in NW Arkansas.

### March Award: For the Love Initiative

This group of ladies, *Meredith Chapuis, Jennifer Cristofaro, and Melinda Williams*, have a food truck downtown that feeds people free of charge every Thursday evening, calling it Neighbor Night. For the Love is operated by volunteers and seeks to create community and develop relationships with their patrons.

Their mission is to feed the hungry, cultivate community and fight poverty; a food truck on a mission. They show up, they serve meals, they have conversations, they listen, and they care. They love without an agenda, without rushing, and without expectation.



*For the Love Initiative receives Spirit of Bentonville Award. Pictured above: Mayor Orman, Meredith Chapuis, Jennifer Cristofaro, and Melinda Williams.*

### April Award: True Colors Farm

*Leslye Morse, Karah Kinkead, Kelli Jensen, and Celeste Michaud* are a group of parents of children with neurodiversities. They are advocates for their children and firm believers in research-based strategies, data collection, communication, and accountability to ensure program-

ming is effective and appropriate for the individual receiving it.

They founded the True Colors Farm; a tulip farm that brings awareness to the public and opportunities for neurodiverse individuals. They are building an inclusive environment in where neurodiverse adults can choose to live independently, continue their education, and experience new opportunities.



*True Colors Farm receives Spirit of Bentonville Award. Pictured above: Mayor Orman, Celeste Michaud, Leslye Morse, Karah Kinkead, and Kelli Jensen.*

*Submit nominations for the Spirit of Bentonville Award online:*





# Bentonville Public Library

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



## Making Room for More!

BPL launched a Needs Assessment Study that reveals what our community wants for our Library in the future. MSR Design's final report was published in the first quarter of 2021 and is available online at [bplexpansion.org](http://bplexpansion.org).

## Check it out – Library of Things!

The Library of Things Collection offers a vast array of kits/items patrons can access to encourage discovery through hands-on interaction and exploration. Kits are available for a wide range of ages, and include musical instruments, early literacy tools, coding games, arts & crafts, and so much more!

Visit [bentonvillelibrary.org/libraryofthings](http://bentonvillelibrary.org/libraryofthings) to learn more and browse all items.



## Free Meals for Kids

BPL is proud to continue our partnership with Aramark and Bentonville Schools by serving as a Summer Feeding Site! During this summer, lunch options will be available to all kids 18 and younger, Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to noon on the library's veranda.

## BPL's Learning Gardens

Visit the Learning Gardens in BPL's Backyard! BPL Staff and Teen Volunteers have been working alongside the Master Gardeners of Benton County to plan and grow a vital outdoor space for our community. This garden not only functions as a learning lab for growing vegetables, herbs, and native plantings but also provides a natural space for programs, activities and recreational reading.

## Summer Reading Program



Join BPL's Summer Reading Program for all ages, June 7th–July 31st.

- Visit the Library for outdoor / socially distanced programs including storytimes, curious kids workshops and more! Visit [bentonvillelibrary.org](http://bentonvillelibrary.org) to explore our summer event calendar.

- Register to track minutes read all summer! Download the free READsquared app & search for Bentonville Public Library or visit

[bentonvillelibrary.readsquared.com](http://bentonvillelibrary.readsquared.com).

*SPONSORSHIP: The Friends of the Bentonville Library, in part by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum & Library Services to the Arkansas State Library under the provisions of the Library Services & Technology Act, and other generous donations to the Library.*



*Teens work with Master Gardeners to build an outdoor learning lab.*

# Transportation & Streets

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

## Voters Approve Street Funding

On April 13, 2021, Bentonville voters approved nine ballot questions to extend bonds for the one-cent sales tax, previously approved in 2003 and 2007. This will allow infrastructure and public safety improvements without a tax increase.

Residents approved Street Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$173.5 million to fund 32 specific projects. Details are available online at: [www.bentonvillebond.com/streets](http://www.bentonvillebond.com/streets).



*Recently completed project at NW 3rd St and N. Walton with new traffic signals and protected left turn movements for NW 3rd traffic. The city also completed an additional southbound lane on SW I St. at*

## Under Construction

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| I-49 / S Walton (Exit 85):  | ARDOT is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).              |
| I-49/N Walton (Exit 93):    | ARDOT is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).              |
| Water Tower / SE 8th, Ph I: | Extending SE 8th St. east to Water Tower Rd. Construction to begin in June. |

## In the Works

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Water Tower / SE 8th, Ph II:   | Widening Water Tower Rd. south to SE 14th St. Currently acquiring right-of-way, completing design, and starting utility relocation. |
| S Main, SE 2nd - SE 8th, Ph 1: | 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 - 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.   |

ARDOT: Arkansas Department of Transportation





# Parks & Recreation

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

## Star Spangled Spectacular

Once again, Bentonville Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Bentonville Fire Department, will be hosting an Independence Day celebration. Make plans to join us for An Evening at Orchards Park on Sunday, July 4th. Over 10,000 guests will gather for great music, food, and the biggest fireworks show in Northwest Arkansas. The event is free to the public. Music starts at 7:00 pm, followed by a lights out, fireworks display at 9:30 pm.



*An Evening at Orchards Park  
scheduled for July 4th.*



*Dog park and playground  
planned for Orchards Park.*

## Orchards Park Additions

Thanks to funding assistance from the Walton Family Foundation, Bentonville Parks and Recreation started design work on the city's second dog park and new playground for Orchards Park. With a dedicated section for small dogs and large dogs, the park space will offer unique land shapes and amenities that reflect the natural character of the region. There will be covered shade structures, trees, and fun crawl sections as well as climb challenges for canine companions. The new playground includes features for kids of all ages with swings, a permanent chime and percussion area, benches, and picnic tables. This park will be accessible to the public and inclusive in design for all residents and visitors. For details: [www.bentonvillear.com/1259/Orchards-Park](http://www.bentonvillear.com/1259/Orchards-Park).

## Summer Splash

The hot, hazy, and humid days of summer have definitely arrived. Between the Melvin Ford Aquatic Center, Bentonville Community Center pools, and Lawrence Plaza Splash Park, Bentonville Parks and Recreation has several options to keep you cool and comfortable throughout the summer months. Above and beyond traditional water play, we host swim lessons, swim team, masters swim, camp opportunities and pool parties. Invest in a membership (family, individual, or youth) and get access to all our aquatic facilities to beat the heat poolside. For program information, hours of operation, and all-things aquatics, visit [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com).



*Aquatic facilities open for summer.*



## Bentonville's Tree Canopy

*Excerpt from: Urban Tree Canopy Assessment, Bentonville, Arkansas  
April 2021 by Planit Geo*

Trees are a critical element of the region's green infrastructure, contributing to environmental quality, public health, water supply, local economies and aesthetics.

To evaluate the status of the tree canopy in Bentonville, the city hired Planit Geo to conduct a tree canopy assessment. They provided an updated baseline and benchmark of the city's tree canopy, including how it has changed since it was last assessed in 2013.

**24.8%**

OF BENTONVILLE  
WAS COVERED  
BY TREE CANOPY  
IN 2019.

The results of the assessment indicate that within the Bentonville city limits, the city contains 25% tree canopy, 45% areas suitable for future tree plantings and 30% areas unsuitable for planting due to current land use or other constraints.

Between 2013 and 2019, Bentonville's tree canopy decreased slightly, with the average canopy decreasing from 25.0% in 2013 to 24.8% in 2019. The study revealed that approximately 1,020 acres of existing canopy had been lost or removed and 962 acres had been gained during those six years.

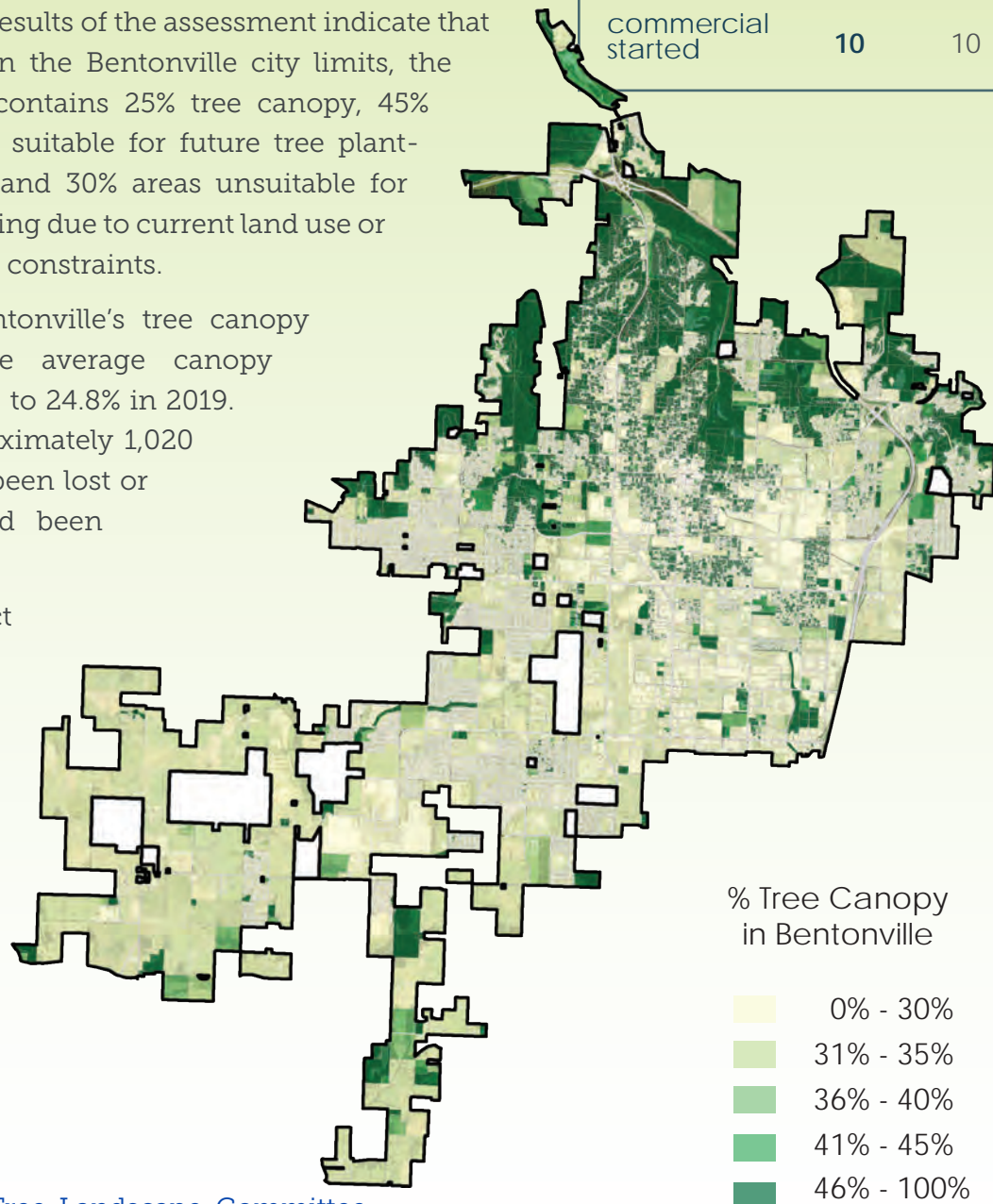
The city continues to conduct tree planting initiatives, residential tree giveaways and tree planting requirements for new development to assist in maintaining the tree canopy.

**61%**

OF ALL PLANTABLE  
SPACE IS LOCATED  
IN RESIDENTIALLY  
ZONED AREAS

### By the Numbers: 1st QTR 2021

Type	1st QTR 2021	1st QTR 2020
building permits	397	407
houses started	81	80
multi-family units started	50	140
commercial started	10	10



For the full report, visit:

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





# 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)

## Prepare for Flash Floods

Flooding is the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. It's important to know what to do before, during, and after a flood.



*BFD assisted a school bus caught in flash flooding on April 28th.*

### Before

- Find out the elevation of your property to determine whether forecasted flood levels are likely to affect your home.
- Move the main breaker / fuse box above the flood level determined for your neighborhood.
- Move appliances / valuables out of basements and lower levels.
- Learn how to shut off electricity, gas and water to your home.
- Develop an evacuation plan, including where to go and how to contact one another.
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit.

### During

- Be alert for flood indicators: rapidly rising water, and flooding of highways and bridges.
- Evacuate to an area of higher ground immediately.
- Stay away from flooded areas, even if the water is receding.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through moving water.
- Watch for snakes in flooded areas.
- Use flashlights, not candles.
- Be aware of flash flooding.

### After

- Make sure children don't play around high water, storm drains, ravines, or culverts.
- Throw away food that may have come in contact with floodwater or perishable food that was not properly refrigerated.
- Use water from safe sources (such as bottled water).
- Before re-entering a home damaged from a flood, turn electricity off at the fuse box or main breaker; check for gas leaks and fire hazards; inspect floors, doors, windows and walls for cracks and damage.

## Online Program Offers Ease And Convenience

### RESOLVE YOUR CASE ONLINE. ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.



COMPUTER. TABLET. SMARTPHONE.

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!

[COURTINNOVATIONS.COM/ARBDC](http://COURTINNOVATIONS.COM/ARBDC)

The Bentonville District Court Innovations program is saving time. Officials launched the free program in November 2019, offering people an online option to resolve their traffic citations with Bentonville Prosecuting Attorney Camille Thompson and Bentonville District Court Judge Ray Bunch.

The online program gives those with traffic cases the option to work out a solution online. The in-place program quickly proved invaluable when the global health pandemic affected in-person restrictions.

In 2020, over 430 people took advantage of the new program.

The program continues to offer ease and convenience while utilizing today's technology. In particular, minor children who have a traffic ticket are required to attend court with a parent present. Parents and their minor children can work with the prosecutor and judge online, so parents don't have to take off from work.

# Letter from Mayor Orman

*Continued from page 1*

know eight of your closest neighbors. When people invest in getting to know their neighbors, there is no doubt in my mind, great things will happen. I also know the Spirit of Bentonville is strong in our city. When relationships develop, neighbors work together, the rewards mul-

tiply for all involved. I have seen this happen time and time again in Bentonville as neighbors help each other and develop long lasting friendships and projects that move our city forward. Start now and let's all commit to a good neighboring lifestyle! Please also share your Good

Neighbor stories with my office! I look forward to highlighting many of these stories of connection and support with our Spirit of Bentonville Award in the near future!

All My Best-  
Mayor Orman

*Coming Soon! Bentonville Animal Services.*



## New City Animal Shelter

A new City of Bentonville animal shelter will be opening next year! In addition to housing dogs and cats, the shelter will be a one-stop shop for all things pet-related. Citizens will be able to adopt a new family member, register their pet, learn about responsible pet ownership and volunteer their time. For more information, email [aworley@bentonvillear.com](mailto:aworley@bentonvillear.com).

[www.bentonvillearpets.com](http://www.bentonvillearpets.com)

## New Location for Utility Billing

Utility Billing has relocated from downtown to the new Administrative Services building at 1000 SW 14th St, located on the corner of SW I St and Highway 102. The office is on the first floor, straight in the front doors. The utility drive-thru is on the west side of the building.

With the drive-thru now a part of the office, we have expanded the hours to match the office. Both are open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.



### • BENTONVILLE WARD MEETINGS •

Ward 3  
August 26th  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
In person: Community Center  
Virtual: Zoom

Ward 4  
October 28th  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
In person: Community Center  
Virtual: Zoom