



# FOCUS

OCTOBER 2021

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

## Letter from Mayor Orman

As summer winds to a close and a spectacular Northwest Arkansas Fall is just around the corner, Bentonville is booming with projects, people, and excitement! New projects are popping up throughout the city and it is certainly not unusual to welcome someone new to the area on a weekly basis. According to recently released numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bentonville is the fastest growing city in Arkansas with a population of 54,164 people. While these numbers reflect our community's sustained vibrant growth throughout the pandemic, there is more to the story.

There is no doubt Bentonville ranks as the best place to live in Arkansas for 2021 based on economic factors, job market, health, safety, cost of living, amenities and many more overall quality of life indicators we appreciate in our city. We are also very fortunate to have a caring community with a "Can Do" attitude and strong desire for private and public collaboration to continuously improve upon the quality of life for all. I enjoy visiting on a daily basis with a growing and involved population of partners and volunteers excited to work together; energetic public and private sectors with cutting-edge ideas; and an emphasis on quality of life like no other. We are also enjoying the fruits of leaders that have come before us with vision and love for the community that has set the stage for collaboration and continued success. I invite you to engage with and learn about Bentonville, experience our rich history, and explore together hopes and future aspirations as we enjoy this journey of building an even better Bentonville together. One way to do this is

to inquire with the Mayor's Office about our Community and Youth Council yearly committees. These committees are a great way to be involved. We will begin accepting applications in October.

As we talk about the exciting opportunities with growth, we have to also be intentional to develop sustainable and responsible growth processes. In April, Bentonville voters were asked to consider a bond extension that would allow infrastructure, public safety, and efficiency improvements without a tax increase, utilizing the extension of a city one-cent sales tax. We asked and you supported this vision that will be integral in maintaining quality of life as we grow. This funding will support improvements to streets, parks and the public library; an advanced public safety radio communication system, a fire training facility, a police training facility and many drainage improvements. We thank you and want you to know we are working hard every day to plan for the growth in a responsible, transparent, and accountable manner. To learn more about these projects and follow their progress, please visit [www.bentonvillebond.com](http://www.bentonvillebond.com).

Finally, let me reiterate the city's commitment to serve the public at the highest level possible each and every day. I am honored and humbled to witness a city

team that works extra hours when needed, goes the extra mile, and shows a high level of caring for those they serve on a daily basis. With this strong sense of purpose and accountability, striving for inclusion, progress and community pride in all we do, I hope you will join us as we work together to make Bentonville the best city in America to live, work, and play!

**Coffee with Bentonville  
Mayor Stephanie Orman**

Join us online the  
3rd Tuesday of  
every month  
8 - 9 am

Registration link @ [bentonvillear.com](http://bentonvillear.com)

# #BeTheBentonvilleDifference

## Spirit of Bentonville Recognitions

The Spirit of Bentonville Award is presented to Bentonville residents for outstanding contributions to the community. Learn more and nominate online at: [www.bentonvillear.com/599/The-Spirit-of-Bentonville-Award](http://www.bentonvillear.com/599/The-Spirit-of-Bentonville-Award).

### Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee - June Winner

Mayor Orman recognized the Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee at her June 2021 virtual coffee event. There are currently five members and one ex-officio: Gulizar Baggson, Nathan Lembke, David Short, Jessie Wagner, Ralph Weber, and Holly Hook (ex-officio). They have given many volunteer hours to the twice-a-year tree giveaway in an effort to maintain and increase our tree canopy. They even adapted during the pandemic creating a drive-through tree pick-up for this popular event to continue.

### Pedal it Forward - July Winner

Mayor Orman recognized the Pedal it Forward non-profit organization during her July virtual coffee event. David Covey, Kenny Williams and Steve Marquess were present to receive the award. Pedal it Forward was started by a group of local cyclists who wanted to find a way to help everyone feel the joy and freedom that comes with having a bike. The program collects, refurbishes, then distributes free or low-cost bicycles and helmets to those who cannot afford them.

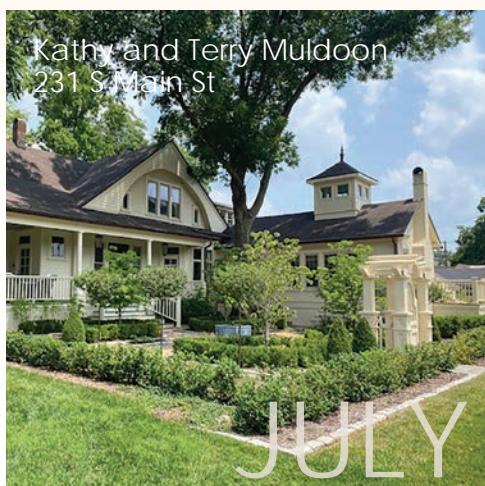
### Valerie Gust - August Winner

In August, Mayor Orman recognized a collaboration led by Valerie Gust between a private enterprise, a religious organization and volunteers. This

partnership gathered 75 gift bags of products delivered to officers in the Bentonville Police Department. Valerie organized this effort just prior to returning to college.



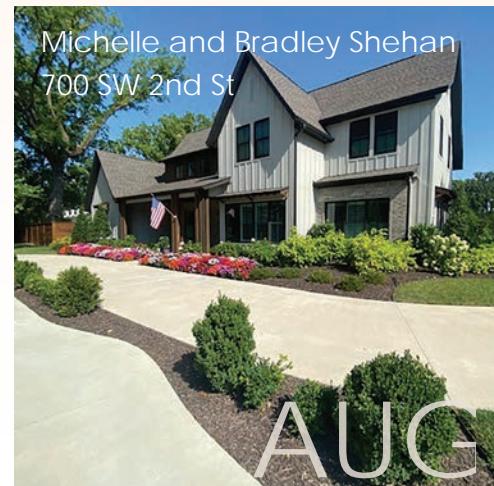
## Residential Landscape Award Winners



For National Dog Day on August 26th, Bentonville Animal Services celebrated with a dog photo contest! Citizens submitted their dog photos and city employees voted on their favorite.

The winner is Harper Shea, a 2 1/2-year-old Dachshund. Even though she has little legs, Harper is always bursting with energy, and her favorite thing to do is run!

For more information on National Dog Day and the new Bentonville Animal Services department, visit our website at [bentonvillearpets.com](http://bentonvillearpets.com) or email [pets@bentonvillear.com](mailto:pets@bentonvillear.com).





# Bentonville Public Library

405 S. Main St. 479.271.3192 <http://bentonvillelibrary.org/>

## Celebrating 15 yrs on Main Street!

- Since opening, BPL circulation has increased 978%, and expanded to include ebooks and downloadables in recent years.
- BPL's collection has grown from 65,266 to 153,570 materials! This is a 135% increase and the physical collection is valued at \$3,350,871.
- On average, a library item may circulate four times in a year!
- From 2009 to 2019, library program attendance expanded from 5037 to 65,021, a 1191% increase!

## Check out our Public Art – featuring Ziba Rajabi



Stop by the fireplace room @BPL to view *This is Your Public Library* by Ziba Rajabi. The custom work was designed using artwork submitted by patrons.

Several art pieces, created by artists of all ages and abilities, portray people's dreams and inspirational ideas about the public library. Ziba used the fun and colorful pieces by cutting them into strips and weaving them together – essentially reimagining multiple submissions into one collaborative community artwork in the shape of Bentonville.

The original art pieces are displayed outside BPL's main entrance.

**BPL in the Community...** visit our mini-branch inside the Bentonville Community Center!

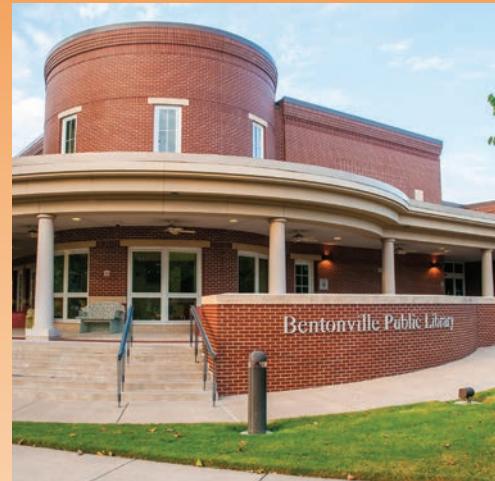


- Check out collections for all ages. The mini-branch features cookbooks, movies, popular fiction, graphic novels and more!
- Stop by for library card sign up, every Friday from 11:00 am to noon.
- Join us for storytime at the Community Center, the first Friday of each month at 10:30 am.

## Harvest time in BPL's Learning Gardens

The Library's Teen Volunteers, with the instruction and help of the Benton County Master Gardeners, work hard to harvest fresh produce from the learning gardens they constructed at BPL in May.

As the young gardeners reap the fruits of their labor, volunteers are encouraged to take veggies home and share the bounty with family members, library staff and patrons.



BPL opened its 38,000 sq. ft. facility on Oct. 30, 2006.

### Stats-a-Glance: 15 years at BPL

Circulation	8.23 M
Library Visits	4.03 M
Program Attendance	540,426
Computer Usage	483,213
Material Requests Filled	375,857
New Library Cards	82,214
Summer Reading Hours	483,213
Meeting Room Groups	18,294
Meeting Room Attendees	208,882
Collection Size	153,570
Collection Value	\$3.35 M



# Transportation & Streets

## Bond Projects Website

On April 13, 2021, Bentonville voters approved a bond extension to allow infrastructure, public safety, and efficiency improvements. For details and progress reports, visit:

[www.bentonvillear.com/1364/BondProjects-Approved-2021](http://www.bentonvillear.com/1364/BondProjects-Approved-2021)



## High Water, High Risk

Drivers often make excuses to proceed through a flooded road. They include: "I'm running late" to "My truck can make it!" to "Where I need to go is right there!" But these excuses are not worth the risk. Only six inches of moving water can stall a car and knock over an adult. One to two feet of moving water can carry away any vehicle. Flooded roads also hide obstacles that may be in the road, such as a hole or tree limb. And, if you decide to go through a flooded road and get stuck, you'll need a rescue, putting first responders in harms way.

It's simple...TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN. Back up and take a different route. Or wait. Bentonville flood water usually recedes quickly after the rain. If you are stranded in floodwater, call 911. Be sure to share this with all of the drivers in your family.

## COMPLETE

NW 3rd / N Walton: Installed a traffic signal with protected left turn movements for NW 3rd St.

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

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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

I-49 / S Walton (Exit 85): ARDOT is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI). Estimated completion Fall 2021.

Water Tower / SE 8th, Ph I: Extending SE 8th St. from I-49 east to Water Tower Rd. 25% complete.

## BIDDING FOR CONSTRUCTION

S Main, SE 2nd to SE 8th: Narrowing travel lanes and adding landscaping and wider sidewalks.

SE / SW 8th Widening: Widening 8th St. from SW I St. to Moberly Ln. and adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

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

## IN DESIGN

Town Vu Bridge to SW I: Designing a complete street project with a continuous bicycle route from the west city limits on Town Vu Rd. to SW 8th St.

NW 3rd, Elm Tree to N Walton: Designing a complete street project with a continuous bicycle and pedestrian route connecting Applegate and N. Walton trails.



# PARKS & RECREATION

479.464.PARK (7275) | [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com)

## Quilt of Parks and A Street Promenade

In June 2020, Bentonville City Council approved a Master Plan for the future of public spaces in Downtown Bentonville. Known as the Quilt of Parks, the plan takes six downtown parks/public spaces and intentionally connects them through a proposed pedestrian promenade along A Street.

The A Street Promenade links Crystal Bridges and Lawrence Plaza to the north, through the Bentonville Square, and south to the expanded Dave Peel Park.

Citizens recently provided input on their preferred design of Dave Peel Park. A new website, [www.quiltofparks.com](http://www.quiltofparks.com), offers high level artwork and imagery of the proposed spaces. Based on recommendations and final review, the project will move to construction.

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

### Dave Peel Park Master Plan



## Razorback Greenway Detours

Due to construction, portions of the Razorback Greenway are temporarily closed. We understand each detour is an inconvenience and apologize for the disruption it causes during your ride. Please know this project includes a focus on eliminating both cyclist and pedestrian interaction with traffic signals and through traffic.



Upon completion, the Bentonville portion of the Razorback Greenway will offer an uninterrupted ride by way of multiple tunnels through parkland and the new Walmart campus.

Thank you for your patience

More info: [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com)

## Ice Rink Opens 11-20

*214 NE A STREET.  
The Rink.  
ZA.*

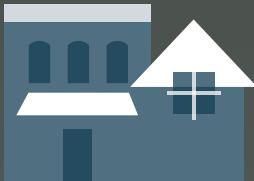


It feels like fall outside, but Lawrence Plaza is transforming into a winter wonderland.

In conjunction with Lighting of the Square, the annual ice rink in Downtown Bentonville officially opens for the holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 20. Each 45 minute session costs \$7 per person and includes rental skates. Private parties and ice skating lessons also available. Lawrence Plaza Ice Rink closes on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.



More info: [playbentonville.com](http://playbentonville.com)



# Planning & Development

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

## 2020 U.S. Census Data Release

Population data for cities and counties became available on August 12. The population for Bentonville as of April 1, 2020 is 54,164. This is a 54% increase from the 2010 census.

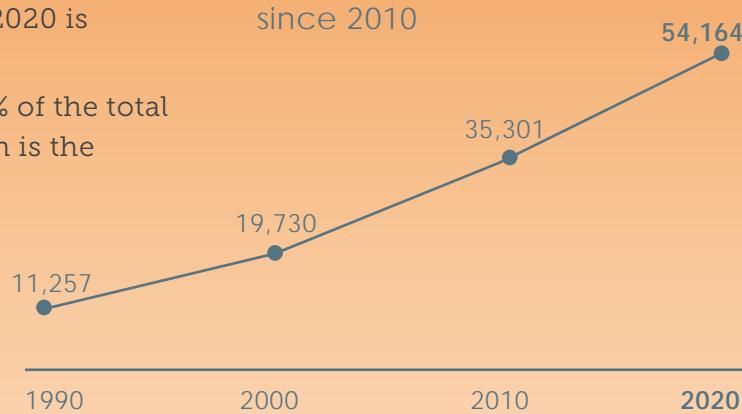
The minority population in Bentonville grew from 19% of the total population in 2010 to 35% in 2020. The Asian population is the largest minority population, comprising 16% of the total population.

There are 22,436 housing units in Bentonville. This is up 53%, consistent with the population increase. Of those units, 91% are occupied.

More info: [http://www.bentonvillear.com/256/De-mographics](http://www.bentonvillear.com/256/Demographics)

**18,863**

New residents  
since 2010



## Block Party Trailer Supports Neighborhood Connections



A primary goal of the Great Neighborhoods Partnership is for neighbors to get to know each other. The Block Party Trailer is one of the program tools to help do just that.

The Block Party Trailer made its inaugural trip to a neighborhood party this summer. The trailer provides tables, chairs, coolers, trash receptacles, and plenty of fun games and activities for the kids.

The Block Party Trailer is one of the benefits for neighborhoods participating in the Great Neighborhoods Partnership. We'd love to help you establish a neighborhood group and join the program. Reach out to us at [neighborhoods@bentonvillear.com](mailto:neighborhoods@bentonvillear.com).

And get ready, we'll be having our second annual neighborhood holiday decorating contest in December!

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

## Keep Bentonville Beautiful

Be part of the solution, not the pollution

Keep Arkansas Beautiful is celebrated each fall from September to October. We hope you will join us in keeping Bentonville clean.

Neighborhoods and groups around the city will be picking up litter throughout the event. If you'd like to help, litter kits are available for pickup. Simply go online and reserve your kit:

[www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Neighborhood-Clean-Up-Kit-Request-78](http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Neighborhood-Clean-Up-Kit-Request-78)

## By the Numbers: 1st Half 2021

	2021 (Jan-Jun)	2020 (Jan-Jun)	Change from 2020
building permits	768	796	▼ 3.5 %
housing units started	403	383	▲ 5.2 %
commercial started	27	14	▲ 92.8%



# PUBLIC SAFETY



## New Equipment Provides Real-life Simulation Training

The Bentonville Police Department is excited to announce that the first piece of equipment for our training facility is set to arrive and be put to use this fall. In an effort to ensure our officers are receiving the best and most up-to-date training, the city has invested in the VirTra V-300 (Simulator).

The Simulator helps prepare law enforcement officers for real-life incidents so they can return home safely after each shift. Each real-world, de-escalation and judgmental use of force training simulator has realistic scenarios that provide an in-depth look into human performance.

The five screen system, with built-in 4k technology, includes numerous scenarios incorporating programs specific to firearms and teaching some of the latest

## October is Fire Prevention Month

- On Halloween, keep your eyes out for kiddos and instruct your kids on Halloween safety tips.
- Clean gutters and keep them free of all leaves and debris.
- Clean chimneys before you use by removing leaves, birds nests, and creosote.
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors. It is recommended to replace batteries twice a year when the time changes.

law enforcement training. As officers go back out into the community, they will bring the training they received with them which will ensure they are responding to calls for service with the most up-to-date training in a variety of areas.

The VirTra V-300 will also be available for other agencies to utilize, including other law enforcement agencies in Northwest Arkansas and our Citizen's Police Academy and Youth Academy.

Our hope is that this simulator is an opportunity for our officers to have access to the latest training

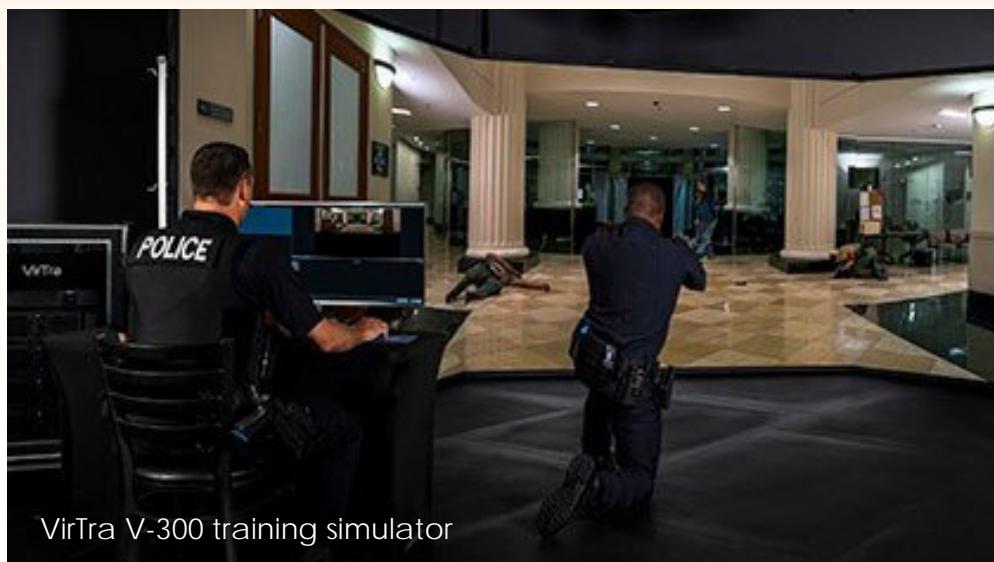
technology and to help educate the public and alleviate misconceptions about law enforcement practices.

## VirTra V-300 Training Simulations

- Implicit Bias
- Autism Awareness
- Officer Communication Skills
- Crisis De-Escalation
- Crisis Intervention
- Active Shooter Scenarios
- High-Risk Vehicle Stops
- Mental Illness

## Smart911

Smart 911 allows residents to go online and create a safety profile for their household. In the event that you or a family member ever need to call 911, the safety profile you created will be available to 911 dispatchers. To create your profile, visit <https://www.smart911.com/>.



VirTra V-300 training simulator



# Two Options for Fall Leaf Disposal

## 1) Schedule a Pickup

Between Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Monday, Dec. 13, residents can call or email to schedule a pick up of properly bagged leaves. City crews will only collect bags that have been scheduled and follow the program rules. To schedule, call or email Public Works Maintenance:

479-271-5945

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



## 2) Bring to Compost Facility

Bentonville residents may dispose of leaves in person at the city's Compost Facility with a copy of a recent utility bill and photo ID.

Compost Facility  
2000 NW A St.

Mon. - Sat., 8 am to 4 pm  
grass, leaves, limbs, brush  
\* Closed Nov. 25 & 26



#BentonvilleGov

## Leaf Pickup Program Rules

**\*\* Only call or email to schedule a pick up when bags are at the curb and ready to be picked up. Once an address is scheduled, please allow 24 to 48 hours for pickup. \*\***

Single family and duplex residential only.

- Commercial properties and apartment complexes are not included.

Bagged leaves only.

- Leaves must be in owner-provided bags.
- Only leaves will be collected. Do not place waste or limbs in bags.
- All bags shall be securely closed.

Correctly placed bags only.

- Place bags within 10' from curb or edge of pavement.
- Place bags away from your normal trash collection location.
- Place bags outside of drainage ditches.
- City forces will only pick up bags placed properly near the street.

## Floodplain Information Available

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 floodplain.

Bentonville Special Flood Hazard Areas are mapped on the city's GIS (<https://bentonvillear.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>) under the FEMA Historical Data layer. As a public service, the City of Bentonville can provide information on the following items at no charge:

- Special Flood Hazard Areas
- flood insurance obtainability
- Flood Insurance Rate Map data
- floodproofing ideas
- elevation certificates
- historical flood information
- floodplain regulations

Submit inquiries online at [Bentonville311.com](http://Bentonville311.com) or to Janet Paith, stormwater coordinator at 479-271-3168 or [jpaith@bentonvillear.com](mailto:jpaith@bentonvillear.com). Provide an address, subdivision name/block/lot number, or tax parcel number.



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

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To report a service concern online visit:

**BENTONVILLE311.COM**

