



FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2022

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

479-271-5966 • www.bentonvilllear.com

Thank you, Bentonville!

As I reflect on last year and look forward with anticipation to what 2022 will bring, I would like to start by thanking our city employees and all of the many volunteers, community leaders, businesses, and civic organizations that continue to keep our city running full steam ahead and give back in so many thoughtful ways. Over the past few years, Bentonville has continued to climb the US rankings for best places to live, work, and play. These accolades are a testament to how hard each of you work to better our City and your willingness to collaborate to make it the very best it can be.

There is no doubt in my mind that great cities are created by a supportive community with a vision to invest and enhance our City's character and success. I appreciate all that each one of you do and look forward to working with all of you in 2022! Your dedication helps guide Bentonville toward its best imaginable future

So...what is on the horizon for 2022 in Bentonville? Without a doubt, there is too much to put in a short article here. However, I invite you to look at the State of the City Address delivered at the February 8 City Council meeting

here www.bentonvilllear.com/600/State-of-the-City. We shared lots of exciting news and impressive statistics about Bentonville. We gave you an overview of new buildings, roadways, utilities, parks, and so much more that you will start to see coming to fruition over the next few years. You can track the progress of many of these projects at www.BentonvilleBond.com. You can also learn more about what's happening around town by joining us at our monthly *Mayor's Virtual Coffee* from 8-9 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month.

There is no doubt Bentonville is a stand out city and I can't say thank you enough to the community for your support and continued perseverance to meet any challenge that comes our way. I look forward to paying a special tribute to all of you who have helped us continue to thrive by serving on one of our city boards, commissions, or committees. Thank you for bringing your passion, insight, experience and resources to serve. I appreciate that you are willing to serve and greatly value your time and your input. And YES, there is always opportunity to serve our city through our



Ribbon cutting for the renovated Tiger Track

numerous boards, commissions, and committees that can be found on the city website at www.bentonvilllear.com/305/Boards-Commissions or through volunteer opportunities at www.bentonvilllear.com/545/Volunteer-Program.

There is no doubt that Bentonville is a city on the move experiencing economic growth even in challenging times. Thank you for being a city with a welcoming heart, a city where technology has taken off and business thrives, a city full of outdoor adventure and unspoiled nature all around, a city of culinary delights infused with artwork renowned, an upcoming tourist destination, a place all are welcome and are proud to call home! I look forward to facing whatever 2022 brings with much gratitude and confidence because I know and have seen the heart of the Bentonville Community at its very best. You are amazing! Cheers to all of you and a bright 2022! Thank you Bentonville!

All My Very Best,
Mayor Orman

#BeTheBentonvilleDifference



Spirit of Bentonville Recognitions

Ann Morrison - September Winner

Mayor Stephanie Orman presented Ann Morrison with the Spirit of Bentonville Award during the September Mayor's Virtual Coffee. Ann volunteered many hours with her administrative skills during the drive-thru Covid Clinics that City of Bentonville hosted in 2021.

Benton County Master Gardeners - October Winner

Benton County Master Gardeners have been involved in Bentonville projects for many years. In May 2021, they planned and designed the space for the Bentonville Public Library Learning Gardens and collaborated with the Teen Volunteers to execute their plans. In the fall of 2021, the Gardeners worked to expand the community garden space located at Helping Hands. Both of these initiatives have provided a learning experience and also given back to our Bentonville community.



Liberty DeSilva and Reyan Patel - November Winners

Mayor Orman recognized Liberty DeSilva and Reyan Patel for their acts of kindness and giving back spirit they have displayed at an early age. Liberty and Reyan were featured in a Build Up Bentonville video segment produced by DBI earlier this year. Liberty made and sold bracelets and lemonade. Reyan used his drawing skills to produce and sell art pieces. They both donated their proceeds to Bentonville's new Animal Services Facility. These students shared their love for animals and heart for giving back at the Animal Services Facility groundbreaking ceremony on December 1, 2021.



Volunteers Needed for *Clean the Streets Day* Saturday, April 9

The City of Bentonville is celebrating "Keep Arkansas Beautiful's Great Arkansas Cleanup" this Spring on April 9. The city will provide supplies and assign volunteers to a specific area of Bentonville to remove trash and debris from our roads, parks, and other public areas.

More info: Visit:
www.bentonvilllear.com/545/Volunteer-Program

Fall Landscape Awards

Mayor Orman awarded Residential Landscape Awards to Lisa and Scott Crossett of 208 NW F St. in September and Sandy and Chris Baumhover of 2412 Rita Way in October. The only Commercial Landscape Award in 2021 was presented to Northwest Church at 301 Unity Blvd.

The Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee selects award recipients. Nominations can be submitted online at <https://www.bentonvilllear.com/formcenter/>



Bentonville Public Library

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

Adult Book Clubs: March Book Selections

Mayor's Book Club. Join Bentonville Mayor Stephanie Orman to read *Change Your World* by John C. Maxwell and Rob Hoskins. Participants are encouraged to identify the behaviors necessary to form good habits, break bad habits, and stay motivated when striving for their goals. Join the discussion Monday, March 7.

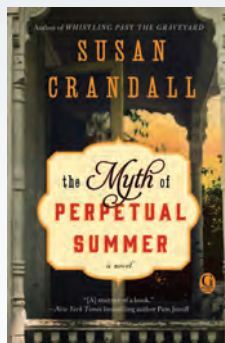
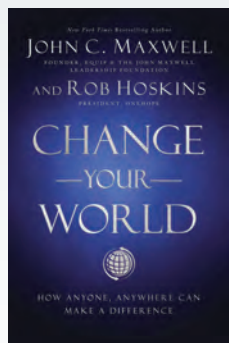
To register and reserve your copy: Visit bentonvillelibrary.org/calendar.

Young At Heart. A group perfect for adults who enjoy reading young adult books. Join the discussion Wednesday, March 2 at 6 p.m.
Title: *I Am Still Alive* by Kate Alice Marshall.

First Edition. Join the discussion Tuesday, March 8 at 6 p.m.
Title: *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner.

Books on Main. Join the discussion Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m.
Title: *The Myth of Perpetual Summer* by Susan Crandell.

Books are available at the front desk, while supplies last. Special thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Bentonville Library Foundation for sponsoring BPL book clubs.



Library of Things & More!

Do you know that Bentonville Public Library offers more than just books? BPL has all kinds of things to checkout in our "Library of Things" collection, such as fishing poles, art kits, tools, telescopes and more. The Library also provides ebooks, downloadables and online learning resources!

- Download the free *Libby* app to access ebooks and audiobooks.
- Does your child need homework help? Log in to Tutor.com.
- Do you want to learn to speak like a pirate? Check out *Mango Languages*.
- Are you exploring career advancement or professional development opportunities? Visit *Learning Express Library* or *LinkedIn Learning for Library*.

More info: Call 479-271-3192 or visit www.bentonvillelibrary.org.



Trendsetter City Award

The City of Bentonville received an honorable mention in the Arkansas Business 2021 Trendsetter Awards for BPL's Learning Gardens. The Learning Gardens are located in BPL's Backyard, and were built and maintained by the Master Gardeners of Benton County and BPL Teen Volunteers. The Friends of the Bentonville Library sponsored this project.

These items can be checked out!



Transportation & Streets

479-271-3131 • www.bentonville.com/315/Transportation

Get Notified of Road Closures

With the city's increase in development, road closures have been a topic of concern. The Transportation Department releases all road closures to the public through several outlets, including press releases, notifications and social media.

The best way to immediately hear about road closures is by signing up for notifications on the city's website: www.bentonville.com/list.aspx. Under the *Alert Center*, select the box next to *Street Closures* and provide your email or phone number. When a road closure has been posted to the website, you will automatically receive a notification, either by email or text, depending on how you requested to be notified.

51 Bond Projects Started

Last April, Bentonville voters approved a bond extension to allow infrastructure, public safety and efficiency improvements. The Transportation Department has kicked off 28 street improvement projects and 23 drainage projects.

More info: Visit www.bentonvillebond.com.



Southbound lane added to SW I St. from Melissa Dr. to SW 14th St. (Hwy102) in 2021.

Road Projects

Complete

I-49/ N Walton (Exit 93)

ARDOT constructed a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

Under Construction

I-49 / S Walton (Exit 85):

ARDOT is constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

Water Tower / SE 8th, Ph I

Extending SE 8th St. from I-49 east to Water Tower Rd. Project is 25% complete.

S Main, SE 2nd to SE 8th

Project includes a road diet to narrow lanes and construct wider sidewalks. Construction should begin in February.

SW Bright

This section of street, constructed in conjunction with Parks and Recreation's 28th Street Park, will extend Bright Rd. north beyond SW Airport Rd. to SW 28th St. Construction should begin in February.

N Walton / NW 12 / Tiger Intersection

Constructing left turn lanes at NW 12th St. and Tiger Blvd. and replacing signals.

NE Cub Sidewalk

This project consists of the installation of approximately 550 linear feet of concrete sidewalk along Cub Cir. from Tiger Blvd to NE A St. to make a connection to the Razorback Greenway.



Parks & Recreation

479-464-PARK (7275) • playbentonville.com



28th Street Park & Bright Rd. Extension

Mid-February is the anticipated start date for construction of 28th Street Park and Bright Rd. Extension in southwest Bentonville. As the city's first "green street," the project establishes 1.6 miles of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, increasing accessibility and ridership to the park and neighboring subdivisions.

With 35 acres in total, 28th Street Park will become one of Bentonville's most innovative facilities. The project includes plans to house Arkansas' first regulation cricket pitch, a destination playground, restrooms, splash park, maintenance building, bike trail, and an evening-lit dog park.



Register Now!

Bentonville Half Marathon: April 2

Save-the-date: Saturday, April 2, 2022, for the 12th annual Run Bentonville Half Marathon. The premier running event of Northwest Arkansas will be back in its original spring time slot on the Bentonville Square. Choose your distance: Half Marathon (13.1 miles), Two-Person Relay (6.5 miles) or Traditional 5k (3.1 miles).

The Health & Wellness Expo will be held the day before on Friday, April 1 at The Record, 104 SW A Street in Bentonville.

More info and registration: Visit runbentonville.com.



SQUARE 2 SQUARE

Spring Ride: May 7
Fayetteville to Bentonville

Fall Ride: Oct. 8
Bentonville to Fayetteville

Square 2 Square: An NWA Biking Event

Bentonville Parks and Recreation, in partnership with Fayetteville Parks and Recreation, will once again be hosting our signature, cycling event along the Razorback Regional Greenway in 2022. Make plans to participate in both Square 2 Square bike rides: Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, October 8.

Enjoy the scenic 30 mile route, with designated pit stops and post-ride, finish line festivities including: music, refreshments, photos, medals, and more. You also have the option to participate virtually by riding at your convenience during the months of May and October.

More info and registration: Visit playbentonville.com.





Community Development

479.271.3122 • bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services

2021 Year in Review: DEVELOPMENT

The Planning Department processed 373 projects in 2021, up nearly 3% from 2020. This is the highest number of items coming through the department since 2004.

Residential. Planning Commission approved nine residential preliminary plats, totaling 651 lots, and six final plats, totaling 492 lots. A total of 994 multifamily residential units were approved in 13 development projects.

Commercial. Planning Commission approved 24 commercial projects, up by one project from 2020. Projects are dominated by large scale developments for various phases of the Walmart Home Office Campus.

\$1.1 BILLION

Value of all Permits

(yes, that's billion with a "b")

By the Numbers 2021

building permits	1562	▼ 13%
single family	457	▼ 5%
multifamily units	146	▼ 79%
new commercial	50	▲ 16%

2021 Year in Review: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS



The Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program doubled its participating neighborhoods in 2022 and now has 14 neighborhood partners. The Neighborhood Advisory Committee, with a representative from each neighborhood partner, began meeting regularly each month. Speakers at these meetings included the Bentonville Public Library, Bentonville Parks & Recreation, and the Transportation Department.



2021 marked the inaugural year for the Block Party Trailer. Three partnering neighborhoods used the trailer to host a neighborhood event. The trailer includes tables, chairs, coolers, games and other supplies.

In December, the Great Neighborhoods Program held its second annual Holiday Decorating Contest. Seven neighborhoods entered, with Woods Creek Subdivision winning the Most Holiday Spirit Award and Lochmoor Club winning the People's Choice Award.

2021 Year in Review: PUBLIC ART

During the summer of 2020, the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) issued a Call for NWA Artists to support the local art community during the COVID-19 pandemic and selected two artworks. The first is a permanent sculpture and landscape display titled *The Almost Forgotten Osage Prairie* by Jonathan Perrodin located at Lake Bentonville Park. The second was a temporary fabric and poem piece titled *Guide These, My Hands* by Danielle Hatch and Traci Rae Manos that was on display in Train Station Park from May until October.

The PAAC also approved two additional projects. The mural *Mull it Over* by Nina Chanel Abney was installed this summer on the Razorback Greenway near NW 5th Street, curated by OzArt. The temporary mural titled *Buffalo River Float* by Brandon Bullette is currently being installed on the Razorback Greenway behind Compton Gardens, curated by the Peel Compton Foundation.



The Almost Forgotten Osage Prairie
Jonathan Perrodin



Guide These, My Hands
Danielle Hatch and Traci Rae Manos



Public Safety



479-271-3170 • www.bentonvillear.com/342/Police-Department

479-271-3151 • www.bentonvillear.com/214/Fire-Department

Winter Safety Tips



Prepare for power outages

Heavy snow and ice can take down power lines and leave you in the cold and dark. To prepare for power outages, invest in a two way radio for news concerning the power outage. You may also invest in a generator, flashlights, and extra batteries. Keep warm clothing, blankets, non-perishable food, and bottled water in an emergency kit.

Repair outdoor lighting

Winter days are short, which means you spend more time in the dark. Maintain a well-lit path to your home by ensuring outdoor lights work and fixtures are firmly secured.

Prevent icicles and ice dams

Icicles look enchanting, but they present risk of injury and ice dams that can damage your home and cause melted water to get inside. Ice dams occur with air leaks in your home or inadequate insulation in your attic.

Fight germs

Illnesses thrive in winter months and being cooped up inside makes everyone more susceptible to viruses and bacteria. Let in fresh air whenever possible. Keep your house a little cooler so the environment is less friendly for viruses. Drop the thermostat by five degrees and use a humidifier. Wash your hands frequently with antibacterial soap and regularly change your toothbrushes.

Keep your driveway and walkways clear

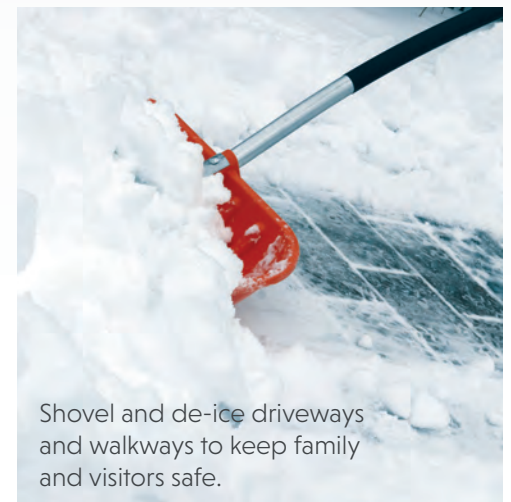
During winter weather conditions, remove snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways. Prepare for snow by stocking up on winter tools like snow shovels and giving your snow blower or plow a tune-up. After shoveling the snow, follow up with ice melt or rock salt on steps and walkways to prevent ice build-up and fall injuries.

Inspect your roof

Before the first snowfall, check your roof for damaged, loose, or missing shingles that may leak when the snow melts or during severe storms. Make sure seals around chimneys and vent stacks are intact as well.

Winterize your pipes

Use foam, heating cables, or pipe sleeves to ensure pipes stay warm enough. Seal any cracks in your home's exterior.



Shovel and de-ice driveways and walkways to keep family and visitors safe.

Drainage: What to Look for when Purchasing Property

Are you looking at a new lot or home? If so, be sure to study the property for drainage conditions. Remember that water flows downhill, so look at the lay of the land. Make sure land slopes away from the structure. Where is the low spot? Is the yard soft? Look at the other structures on the block, are they higher or lower than the proposed property? Ask neighbors about drainage

conditions and if they purchase flood insurance. Look for mold, water marks, or cracks in foundation walls. If possible, visit the property during a rain event and observe how and where the water flows. Visit the city's interactive map for additional drainage information:

<https://gis.bentonvillear.com/Html5/Index.html?viewer=master>.

Search by address or parcel

number and turn on layers to see wetlands, floodplain, contours, downtown drainage, and stormwater pipe data. How close are water features such as ditches, creeks, drainage easements, underground pipes, and ponds to your property? Post drainage questions on bentonville311.com or contact the Stormwater Coordinator at 479-271-3168 or jpaith@bentonvillear.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bentonville Connections - March 31 & April 28

Bentonville Connections is a new program for city departments to share updates with residents. During these events, citizens will learn when, where, and how to contact various departments throughout Bentonville and have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with department representatives. Presentations are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 at the Bentonville Public Library and Thursday, April 28 at the Bentonville Community Center. The March 31 event will also include a booth expo from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

More info: Email neighborhoods@bentonvillear.com.

Bentonville Together:

A Celebration of Our Multicultural Community - April 23

The City of Bentonville's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Community Task Force and Downtown Bentonville Inc. (DBI) will present "*Bentonville Together: A Celebration of Our Multicultural Community*." This one-day festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 4 to 9 p.m. on the Bentonville Square providing a first-class inclusive experience through dance, music, food, arts and crafts, and linguistic lessons. The event has three sections: *Taste, Discover, & Learn*. The *Taste* section will feature local culinary vendors who specialize in ethnic cuisine. In the *Discover* section, attendees will hear historical aspects, migration stories, religious practices, and family traditions from "living legends." The *Learn* section will house the Kids Corner for arts, crafts and linguistic lessons.

More info: Visit www.downtownbentonville.org/.

Spring Tree Giveaway - April 23

The Bentonville Tree and Landscape Committee is hosting the Spring Tree Giveaway to Bentonville residents April 23 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Municipal Complex, 3200 SW Municipal Drive.

More info: Visit

www.bentonvillear.com/837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway.

Microchipping available
at Yappy Hour March 17.



Pet Microchipping at Yappy Hour - March 17

Mark your calendars! Bentonville Animal Services is bringing back Yappy Hours! Our first event will be Thursday, March 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bentonville Bark Park. Microchipping available for \$20.

More info: Visit

bentonvillearpets.com or email pets@bentonvillear.com.



Spring Tree
Giveaway April 23