



FOCUS

Newsletter of the City of Bentonville, AR

FEBRUARY 2023

Letter from Mayor Orman

Happy New Year! Here's to an extraordinary 2023! The City of Bentonville is excited to ring in the new year focusing on our many city assets in both people and infrastructure. We look to expand our ecosystem to support sustainable growth and maintain fiscal responsibility while building a community that supports a safe city with a robust economy and welcoming atmosphere.

There are many things coming in 2023 and this short welcome note does not allow time to go into all those. What I can say is you have picked a great city to call home in 2023 and we are looking forward to bringing you announcements throughout the year to show you how Bentonville is on a path of boundless opportunity and energizing things to come.

To stay up to date with all the city information, please follow us on social media, attend our City Council meetings or listen to the Mayor's virtual coffee on the 3rd Tuesday of every month as we add ways monthly to connect with the public and keep all informed. The city will be hosting two Bentonville Connection meetings in 2023. The first will be April 27 at

Bentonville Public Library and the second will be September 28 at the Bentonville Community Center. We frequently post about public input opportunities and we encourage the public to work with us on solving concerns together and making 2023 the best it can be in the City of Bentonville.

One of the top ways to connect with the city is through our Bentonville311.com website. This website offers a great way to report over 20 of the top requested non-emergency concerns you see in Bentonville. This one easy-to-remember website, Bentonville311.com works to make city government efficient and effective for you by tracking concerns and providing a timely response from the department that handles that topic. In addition, signing up to receive notifications of your choice and the city newsletter via email or text on our city website at Bentonvilleear.com will also help keep you well-informed of timely information and activities in our community.

As mentioned above, there are going to be many things to look forward to and celebrate in 2023. One of the opportunities we are really excited about, and I would be remiss if I did not mention in this



opening note, is the City's 150th Celebration. Our Community Development Department has worked hard with city departments and community partners to have a full year of activities planned, including concerts, promotions, historical exhibits, and so much more for the public to be engaged with as we celebrate our city together. We are kicking off the year-long celebration with a contest I am particularly excited about as the city will be creating a keepsake calendar to commemorate its 150th Anniversary with images submitted by the public. An image will be selected to represent each month. We are calling all Bentonville photographers and artists to send us your very best Bentonville photos or artwork to compete for inclusion in the 150th celebration calendar.

Continued on back page.

#BeTheBentonvilleDifference

Spirit of Bentonville Award

Ryan Kelley, Justin McMurtrey - Mayor Orman honored Ryan Kelley, manager of the Bentonville Lowes store, and Justin McMurtrey, Bentonville Chapter President of Sleep in Heavenly Peace with a Spirit of Bentonville Award in September. They were recognized for their work toward the mission of Sleep in Heavenly Peace which is to build and deliver beds to kids ages three to 17 who do not have one to call their own. The Bentonville Chapter started four years ago and has delivered over 700 beds in that time. They partner with busi-

nesses, churches or other organizations to sponsor a bed build and help them build the bed components and provide a mattress, sheets, pillow, blankets; everything a kid needs to sleep that night. Justin stated that there is a backlog of over 150 kids who need a bed.

Manuel Barrantes - Mayor Orman honored Manuel Barrantes with a Spirit of Bentonville Award in December. Ben Cline nominated Manuel for this award stating he could not think of a better servant leader than Manuel. Before starting his career with Walmart,



Mayor with members of Bentonville Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Manuel received the UN social leadership award for having started a



Mayor with recipient Manuel Barrantes and his nominator, Ben Cline.

program that helped poor communities in Nicaragua have sustainable income. Manuel is heavily engaged in the community serving in many organizations.

Submit a nomination for the Spirit of Bentonville Award online at: www.bentonville.com/599/The-Spirit-of-Bentonville-Award.

Bentonville Awarded 2022 Volunteer Community of the Year

The City of Bentonville was presented with a 2022 Volunteer Community of the Year award at the Arkansas Municipal League conference in Little Rock in January. Thank you to all of our citizens for your volunteer efforts to make our city such a great place to live, work and play!



Decorating Contest Winners: Lochmoor Club & Woods Creek

Each winter, members of our Great Neighborhoods Partnership



Program share holiday cheer with the citizens of

Bentonville by participating in our Holiday Decorating Contest.

Congratulations to Lochmoor Club for winning the Most Holiday Spirit and Woods Creek for winning the People's Choice Award in 2022! Learn more about the Great Neighborhoods Program and join

the 21 neighborhoods that are already participating at www.bentonvillegreatneighborhoods.com



Reams receive September Landscaping Award

Donna & Gene Reams of 2303 NW Willow St. received the September Residential Landscaping of the Month Award. The Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee give these awards May through September. Submit a nomination at www.bentonvillelear.com/466/Tree-Landscape-Committee.





Bentonville Public Library

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

BPL by the Numbers in 2022

In 2022, Bentonville Public Library recorded 763,427 circulations of its collections, including checkouts of physical materials and downloads of digital books. This is BPL's highest circulation ever!

Library visitors totaled more than 257,000 with 39,621 patrons attending library programs and over 5,800 new library cards issued. More than 7,000 free meals were served this summer, in partnership with Bentonville Schools and Aramark. Over 3,700 people attended signature festivals hosted by BPL.

Did You Know?

Last year, BPL introduced brand new services to the community with the installation of Pickup Lockers at the Library and Community Center. The lockers offer more options for patrons to pick up requested items. The Library also launched new payment options for patrons to pay fines online with a credit card or at BPL using selfCheck terminals that accept cash and credit cards.

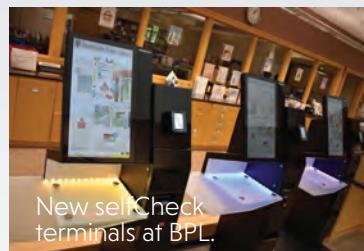
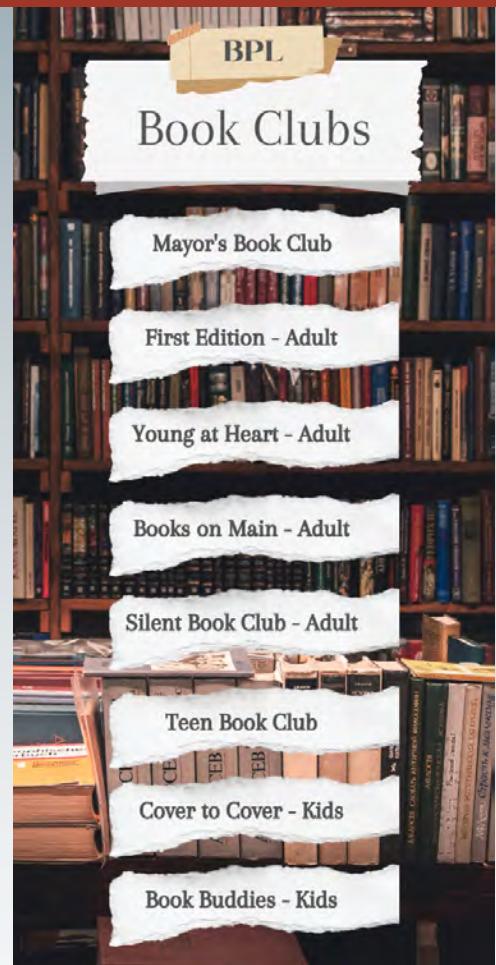
Library Expansion Update

BPL continues work on its expansion to "make room for more!" MSR Design recently completed architectural designs and Flintco is leading preconstruction and bidding activities. The project budget remains \$16,750,000. Approximately 22,795 square feet will be added to expand services and offer new amenities. The Library is expected to break ground this spring. Learn more at bentonvillebond.com.

Want to support the Library's expansion project? The Bentonville Library Foundation is still fundraising! Online giving opportunities are available at bentonvillelibraryfoundation.org.



Architectural design for adding approximately 22,795 sq. ft. to BPL.



LEARN A NEW SKILL IN
2023

Available on BPL's
eLearning page

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE



MANGO

LEARN A NEW
LANGUAGE IN THE
COMFORT OF YOUR
OWN HOME



THOUSANDS OF WAYS TO LEARN

ACCESS TO COURSES
TAUGHT BY
RECOGNIZED
INDUSTRY EXPERTS

LinkedIn
LEARNING

LEARN FROM BOOKS AND VIDEOS

ACCESS VIDEO
ON DEMAND

JUST FOR KIDS
ACCESS VIDEO



Transportation & Streets

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

Bentonville's Snow & Ice Removal Policy

The Street Department Crews work to pretreat and plow our city roadways for snow and ice events. Pretreating hills, bridges, overpasses, and major intersections will be priority.

See the the Snow & Ice Removal Policy online:
<http://bentonvillear.com/DocumentCenter/View/581/Snow-and-Ice-Removal-Procedures-PDF>.



Your Bentonville snow and ice removal crews.

Scan code for information on the bond program:

www.bentonvillebond.com



Five Road Projects Under Construction

8th St Improvements:

Reconstruction and widening of 8th St. including storm drainage, traffic signals, additional driving lanes and an off-street shared use path.

N Walton/NW 12th St/Tiger Intersection: Adding dedicated left turn lanes on NW 12th St. and Tiger Blvd.

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

Water Tower Rd: Improvements to Water Tower Rd. from SE 8th St. to SE 15th St.

SW Bright Rd: Extension of Bright Rd. north beyond SW Airport Rd. to SW 28th St.



Two Recently Completed Road Improvement Projects

Water Tower Rd/SE 8th St. Extension: Extension of SE 8th St. from I-49 Interchange to Water Tower Rd.

S Main St, SE 2nd to SE 8th: Project included narrowing road lanes and widening sidewalks.



Improvements on S. Main St.



Extension of SW 8th St. to Water Tower Rd.



Parks & Recreation

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



Run Bentonville Half Marathon

Always Growing. Still Running. Our City. Our Race.

Join us on Saturday, April 1, 2023, for the 13th annual Run Bentonville Half Marathon. The premier running event of Northwest Arkansas will be back on the Bentonville Square. Choose your distance – Half Marathon (13.1 miles), 2-person Relay (6.5 miles) or traditional 5k (3.1 miles) and register on runbentonville.com. The Health & Wellness Expo is Friday, March 31, 10 am-7 pm, at The Record.

Camp Bentonville

Camp Bentonville offers the perfect environment to learn, explore, create, and play.

Camps are planned for school breaks throughout the year – spring, summer, fall and holiday. For specific program descriptions, dates, times, costs, and registration details, visit playbentonville.com or call 479.696.0200.



Square 2 Square Bike Ride

Bentonville Parks and Recreation, in partnership with Fayetteville Parks and Recreation, will once again be hosting Square 2 Square, our signature cycling event along the Razorback Greenway.

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, respectively.

Make plans to participate in both the 2023 (spring and fall) Square 2 Square bike rides:

Saturday, May 6: Fayetteville to Bentonville

Saturday, October 7: Bentonville to Fayetteville

Register and learn more at playbentonville.com.



Bentonville Outdoors offers Adventure

Bentonville Outdoors is a new community program designed to provide outdoor adventure and learning opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. The membership-based format offers weekly experiences for members such as: kayaking, bike mechanics, fishing, forestry, sunset yoga, moonlight hikes, and more. Daily, monthly, and annual pricing options are available for residents and non-residents. Learn more at playbentonville.com.

Community Development

479.271.3122 • bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services

Bentonville Celebrating 150 Years throughout 2023

bentonville150@bentonvillear.com

In November of 1837, a site was designated as the county seat for Benton County. This site was named in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton, from Missouri, who

worked to have Arkansas admitted as a state. The townsite was laid out and platted on November 7, 1837. Bentonville was named after the county and became the county seat. Bentonville was incorporated

as a town in January of 1873. City departments, local businesses and organizations have partnered to mark Bentonville's sesquicentennial anniversary with celebrations all year-long. From give-aways to bike ride challenges, guest speakers to special events, photo contest to storytimes, there's plenty of opportunities to join in the celebration.



Mayor's Bentonville 150 Calendar Contest

Mayor Orman is hosting a contest to select 12 photos or artwork to create a "Seasons of Bentonville" themed keepsake calendar to commemorate the city's 150th Anniversary. Winning selections will also be displayed in City Hall. Submit your very best Bentonville photos or artwork to compete for inclusion in the calendar. Must be a Bentonville resident and over the age of 12 to enter. Digital entries accepted through March 17, 2023 online at www.bentonville150.com.

Win a Utility Bill Credit!

To help celebrate 150 years, Bentonville Utilities will have a drawing for one of ten \$50 statement credits. Sign up for AutoPay or Paperless between 1/1/23 and 3/23/23 to be entered. If you are already signed up for paperless, you are already entered. See official rules at: www.bentonville150.com.

www.bentonville150.com

2022 Year in Review: Development

The Planning Department processed 384 projects, an increase of 5% from 2021. These items include preliminary and final plats, large scale developments, property line adjustments, lot splits, rezonings, conditional uses, variances and waivers. Development items made up 58% of all projects and zoning requests made up 42%.

In 2022, Planning Commission continued to see a high number of rezoning and conditional use requests. They reviewed 79 rezoning requests, up two from the

previous year and 38 conditional uses, up 65%. The Board of Adjustment items also increased by nearly 14%, reviewing 42 items. Planning received 9 preliminary plats and 8 final plats. All 9 preliminary plats were residential and five of the eight were residential and three were commercial. Lot splits were up by nearly 5% while property line adjustments were down by 23%. They also reviewed 74 large-scale developments, up 23% from 2021. Ten were residential large scale development projects, consisting

Building Permit Numbers

2022

building permits	1481	▼	5%
single family	478	▲	5%
multifamily units	575	▲	294%
new commercial	39	▼	28%

primarily of townhome development. They reviewed 35 commercial large-scale developments and the remainder were public or infrastructure projects. Planning staff also reviewed 171 sign permits, 35 outdoor vendor permits and eight parklet permits.



Public Safety



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

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

Bentonville Police Department Launches Citizen Connect

The Bentonville Police Department is committed to the principles of the 21st Century Policing strategies and working in partnership with our community to create a safe and secure environment for all who live, work, and play in our great city.

One of the most valuable resources our local government can provide to you, the residents we serve, is information. This includes information on recent police, fire, or traffic incidents around where you live or work, Bentonville 311

request for service needs within the city, and additional resources that allow you to view and analyze trends in your area.

With all of that in mind, the Bentonville Police Department is excited to launch Citizen Connect to the community. Citizen Connect allows you to search specific areas, cases/incidents, and date ranges, all within the city limits of Bentonville. Users may also register to receive personalized alerts to track the crime in your neighborhood. Being informed about



criminal activity in our community is the first step in preventing future occurrences of crime. Together, we will enhance public safety and improve the quality of life in our community. Visit <http://www.bentonvillear.com/1478/Bentonville-Citizen-Connect> to view mapping of recent police, fire, and traffic accidents to connect to additional city services!

Citizens Police Academy Begins Jan. 30

Beginning January 30, the Police Department will begin its first Citizens Police Academy of 2023. The Bentonville Police Department established the Citizen's Police Academy in 1999 and since its inception, graduated approximately 400 citizens. The slogan of the Citizen's Police Academy is "Understanding through Education." The purpose of the Citizen's Police

Academy is to provide information to the public to dispel misconceptions and increase the rapport between citizens and police officers, as well as to give the public a working knowledge of the Bentonville Police Department.

The main goals of the academy are to partner with the community, explain the operations of the police department, and encourage citizens

to undertake measures to prevent themselves from becoming crime victims. Academy participants gain an understanding of police procedures that are more reflective of everyday police work than what television and movies portray. They also learn how they can help to make their community crime-free. Participants become sources for new ideas as we learn from them in the process of teaching. Our Citizen's Police Academy also provides an avenue for our officers to learn about the concerns of our community members. It encourages police interaction with the public and provides a measure of accountability to the community.

To learn more visit <http://www.bentonvillear.com/400/Citizens-Police-Academy>. Follow our social media for announcements on the Fall 2023 class dates and application period.

Spring Cleaning for Fire Safety

Inside the home:

- Check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Clear out clutter from your home, especially in hallways and stairways.
- Check all appliances to make sure they are in good working condition.
- Clean your clothes dryer vent and lint trap.
- Check flammable liquids and other chemicals for proper storage.

Here are some key tips to safely tackle Spring cleaning.

Outside the home:

- Trim any trees or bushes that are close to your home.
- Check your gas grill for rust, worn parts, grease, and debris before use.
- Move the grill at least 10 feet away from the house before use.
- Make sure your home's address is visible from the street.

Turn Around Don't Drown ®

More than 50% of flood-related deaths are due to someone driving or walking into floodwaters. Most of these could be avoided if people followed this simple advice: Turn Around Don't Drown®.

- 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock an adult off his or her feet and sweep them away.
- 12 inches of moving water can carry off a small car.
- 18-24 inches of water can carry away larger vehicles including

trucks, vans and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you may not know its depth or the condition of the ground underneath. This is especially true at night. Whether driving or walking, play it safe and Turn Around Don't Drown®.

City to Host MESO Line Workers Rodeo Sept. 14

For the first time, the City of Bentonville Electric Department will host the Municipal Electric Services of Oklahoma (MESO) Line Workers Rodeo on September 14, 2023.

The rodeo consists of timed events in which teams of linemen complete a task that they would perform in their daily duties and compete against other teams to accomplish

the task safely and correctly in the quickest time possible.

The event begins at 8 am across from Orchards Park on NW J Street. It is free and open to the public.

Ensure Meters are Accessible

If your electric meter is inside a fenced in area, please make sure we can access the meter. If your gate is locked, please contact Utility Billing at 271-3100, option 2, to supply a key or code.

Letter from Mayor Orman

Continued from Pg. 1

Winning selections will also be displayed in City Hall. It's the start of a year-long sesquicentennial celebration in Bentonville. It's time to celebrate 150 years of the making of a truly extraordinary city that we hope all can enjoy in some way! More information about the City's 150th Celebration can be found throughout this newsletter and online at Bentonville150.com.

We look forward to seeing you in Bentonville in 2023. Together we will celebrate and learn from our past by honoring our history and looking to embrace new and exciting opportunities coming our way in the future! Cheers to #BuildingUpBentonville together in 2023!

All My Very Best-
Mayor Stephanie Orman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Clean the Streets Day - April 15

Every year, Bentonville joins thousands of Arkansas volunteers to remove trash and discarded debris from Arkansas's roadways other public areas. Help us by registering to clean up a street section at:

www.bentonvillear.com/545/Volunteer-Program

Spring Tree Giveaway - April 22

Save the date for our annual Spring Tree Giveaway! Tree types and registration information will be announced in early April. Learn more at www.bentonvillear.com/837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway.

Bentonville Connections - April 27

Join us Thursday, April 27 to hear from Mayor Orman and city staff about community updates and visit the city expo between presentations! To register: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4daaf23a3fb6-bentonville4#/

Bentonville Multicultural Festival - April 29

The City of Bentonville's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Community Task Force and Downtown Bentonville Inc. (DBI) are hosting the second annual Bentonville Together Multicultural Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2023 in Orchards Park from 4 to 9 pm.

For details visit: www.downtownbentonville.org.

