



FOCUS

Newsletter of the City of Bentonville, AR

OCT 2023

Embrace the Colors, Embrace the Community: Welcome to Fall in Bentonville

As summer comes to an end and we embrace the crisp, cooler and superbly colorful days of fall, I hope you will look forward with me to the new season. There is just not any other place quite like Bentonville to celebrate its vibrant beauty and community spirit!

Our city's landscape transforms into a breathtaking tapestry of reds, oranges and yellows. The leaves put on their annual show, turning our parks, streets and neighborhoods into a

picturesque wonderland. So, get your cameras ready and capture the majestic transformation of the beautiful fall foliage that bursts throughout our city. I encourage you to take leisurely strolls on foot or by bike through places like the Crystal Bridges Trail and Compton Gardens or visit one of our many city parks filled with lush green space and outdoor recreation to enjoy. And remember, Bentonville's parks continue to be intentionally designed to include an extensive trail system

that allows you to embark on a connected journey. Going from park to park can be a fantastic way to witness the changing scenery and truly immerse yourself in Bentonville's fall magic.

Fall is not just a season for appreciating the beauty of our city, but this time of year provides so many opportunities for giving back to our community. Consider volunteering at local charities, participating in city-wide or neighborhood cleanups, volunteering at a city event or supporting our small

businesses as they prepare for the holiday season. Fall's beauty and transformation can serve as a powerful metaphor for the positive changes we can make. What you will find in Bentonville is that fall is not only a beautiful occurrence in nature here, but this time of year seems to signal a season of giving back that is truly inspiring.

As always, there are many new projects underway in Bentonville. I wanted to say thank you to all that have helped with or participated in our 150th Celebration so far this year. And, as we end this year-long celebration, be sure to check out Bentonville150.com. There are still several activities that you can be a part of and a lot of history to enjoy on the website.

We have also discovered the creative talents of our GIS team this year. They are all about creating digital maps using geospatial data to give the public a better way to find things in Bentonville. Earlier this year they launched an interactive map for downtown public parking. And, most recently they launched an interactive GIS map for art on public property. I am very excited about the talents of this team and the type of useful mapping tools they can produce for public use. Look for more to come!

Continued on next page



#BeTheBentonvilleDifference

Embrace the Fall (continued from front page)

So, this Fall season, let's take a moment to reflect on what makes Bentonville special and commit to making it even better for generations to come. Whether you are a long-time resident or a newcomer to our beautiful city, you are an essential thread to our vibrant tapestry.

If you see us using the slogans "BuildUpBentonville," "Love Bentonville," or "FallinBentonville," know that these are not just slogans, but a way of life here. We hope that you will want to use these hashtags. It's about working hard together, cherishing our community, celebrating our diversity and nurturing the bonds that unite us. Together, we can continue building a city we are truly proud to call home!

As Mayor, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving this remarkable community. Let's all make this fall season a time filled with warmth and cherished memories.

With Sincere Appreciation- Mayor Stephanie Orman
#Love Bentonville #FallinBentonville #BuildUpBentonville

Landscape of the Month Awards

The Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee recognized the following businesses for landscaping: Bentonville Brewery, Church of Latter Day Saints, Preacher's Son, and Bentonville Smiles. They also selected four residential winners, including: Americo Torres, Michael and Elizabeth Clark, Fred and Diana Kuznia, and Tim and Beth Kenyon.

Commercial

May: Bentonville Brewery



June: Church of Latter Day Saints



July: Preacher's Son



Aug: Bentonville Smiles



Residential

May: 310 SW 20th



June: 108 SE 3rd St



July: 30 Meadowbrook



Aug: 811 NW A St



City Hall Shred-it Day: Nov. 15

Join us for year two of City Hall Shred-it Day! In honor of Bentonville's sesquicentennial, we are looking for 150 Bentonville residents to bring paper they need shredded to City Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 10 am – 2 pm. We will shred only those items for people who reserve a time slot. Make your reservation now at <https://bit.ly/3LrA1zc>.



Bentonville Public Library

479.271.3192 • bentonvillelibrary.org

1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Fostering Early Literacy and a Love for Reading

Bentonville Public Library (BPL) is launching a *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program this fall. *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* helps to develop critical early literacy skills by encouraging families to read aloud with their children. It allows children to discover a wide range of vocabulary, enhances language development, and cultivates listening skills. Moreover, the program fosters bonding between parents and their children through shared reading experiences, creating cherished memories and nurturing a strong parent-child relationship.

Participating in *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* with BPL is simple and accessible to all. Families can register at BPL, where they will receive reading logs in their own folder to record each book read with their child.

Join the *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program at Bentonville Public Library today and together let's build a brighter future, one book at a time. For questions, reach out to Children's Librarian Christina Clark at cclark@bentonvillear.com.



Bentonville Public Library is MY Library!

Walking into your public library today offers a variety of different opportunities for growth, community and literacy exploration. While Bentonville Public Library (BPL) offers an extensive range of print materials in our collection, the library experience is evolving. What used to be a quiet place only ventured by the bookworms among us, BPL has adapted to the modern age by incorporating a vast digital catalog, interactive programming for all ages and various digital resources that extend beyond the ink and paper paradigm.



BPL's Adult Department offers enrichment for a lifetime. Teens can feel safe and a sense of belonging at BPL. The BPL Children's area is where imagination takes flight.

Are you ready to become a member of our library community? Bentonville residents are eligible for a free library card. Come in to the library or apply for a card online.

BPL Introduces Communal Seed Library

Bentonville Public Library (BPL) is excited to introduce its Communal Seed Library, an initiative focused on sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and community involvement.

This innovative project reflects our commitment to fostering a greener future for our community. It encourages library patrons, garden enthusiasts, and residents to explore gardening and embrace the time-honored practice of seed saving, empowering them to create thriving green spaces and fostering a deeper connection to nature.

The Communal Seed library is open year-round, take and give as many seeds as you can! Keep an eye on our events calendar and sign up for the BPL e-newsletter at bentonvillelibrary.org to stay in the know of all things happening at Bentonville Public Library.



Transportation & Streets

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



Beautiful sunrise greets Street Department crews.



Sign up for Road Closure Notifications

With the increase in development, road closures are more and more common. To help with your daily travels, the Transportation Department releases all road closure to the public through several outlets.

Text or email notifications. The best way to receive notifications of road closures is through the city's website notification portal. Under Services go to *Alerts*, select, *Notify Me* link, choose *Street Closures* under Alert Center, and receive email or text notifications.

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

Online map. Another option is to visit the city's mapping webpage that includes a map showing all Bentonville road closures.

<https://bentonvillear.maps.arcgis.com>



www.bentonvillebond.com

Under Construction

Sears Rd.: Paving/overlay of Sears Rd. between S Morningstar and Heagerty Rd.

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

8th St. (SW I to SE J): Reconstructing and widening of 8th St. to include storm drainage, traffic signals, additional driving lanes and off-street shared use path.

Water Tower Rd., Phase 2: Improving Water Tower Rd. from SE 8th St. to SE 14th St.

28th St.: Widening and constructing roadway from Featherston to SW I St. with pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Little Osage Trib 2: Improving channels and bridge along the upper portions of the Tributary.

NW 9th & D: Extending stormwater collection system to NW 9th St. including curb and gutter along streets.

SW Gator Blvd. (Morningstar to Gator Blvd.): Constructing 0.57 miles of three-lane road with pedestrian and bicycle facilities from S Morningstar Rd. to SW Wentworth Ave.

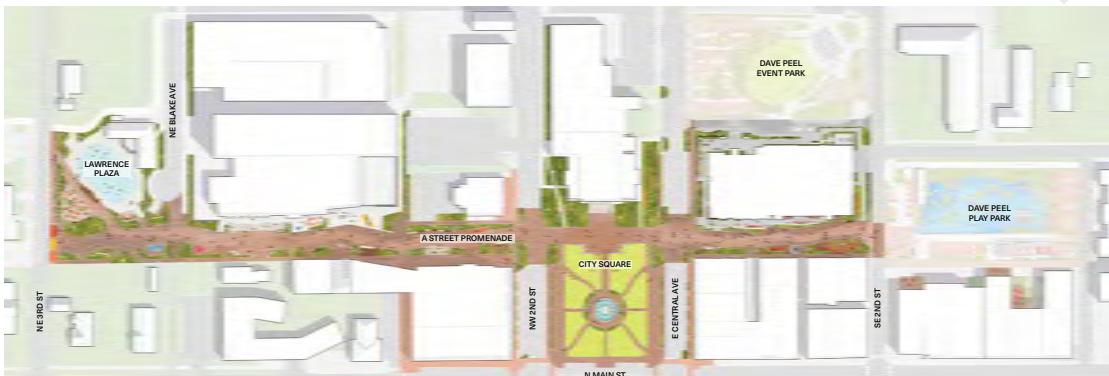
Walton Blvd. & Walmart Entrance: Constructing dual left-turn lanes on the eastbound and westbound approaches for vehicles turning onto Walton.



Parks & Recreation

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

THE QUILT OF PARKS A STREET PROMENADE



Playbentonville.com/QuiltOfParks



Construction Begins on THE QUILT OF PARKS

Construction on the Quilt of Parks, a project connecting six parks and public spaces in Downtown Bentonville through a designated five-block pedestrian promenade, will soon be underway. Implemented in four separate phases between NE 3rd St. and SE 2nd St., the transformation will have a meaningful impact on the community and the economy. Amidst the public spaces will be art installations, gathering spaces, mini-stages, plazas, outdoor seating, and more. Scan the QR code above to learn more.

City Council Approves Renovation of Phillips Park

City Council has approved the renovation of Phillips Park- located at 3108 SE J St. The extensive renovation will convert the existing 50-acre park into a premier baseball complex for the region with turf infields, high-quality lights, concessions, designated umpire space, dedicated maintenance facility, ample parking spaces, and wheelchair accessibility. To follow the progress of this Bentonville bond project, visit playbentonville.com.

Lighting of the Square - Nov. 18

Another Bentonville tradition continues on Saturday, Nov. 18 with Lighting of the Square. Make plans to attend this special community event and enjoy the sights and sounds of the holiday season! The celebration starts at 6 pm when Mayor Stephanie Orman flips the switch, illuminating all of Downtown Bentonville.



Run Bentonville Half Marathon - April 6

Registration is now open for the 2024 Run Bentonville Half Marathon on April 6. Get ready by joining the Half Marathon Training Program designed to get you to 13.1 miles as safely as possible! For a full list of Run Bentonville events and opportunities, visit runbentonville.com.





Planning & Development

479.271.3122 • bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services

PLANBENTONVILLE:

Planning for thoughtful growth in the years ahead



During 2018's Community Planning process, the citizens of Bentonville collectively prioritized thoughtful growth as a pressing concern for our next 10 to 20 years. Now, in response, we're launching a community conversation around exactly what that looks like.

It's called Plan Bentonville. In the coming months, we'll be asking residents, business owners and other stakeholders a series of questions about how and where we want to grow. What character do we want to cultivate? Where in the city should we encourage desired growth and where do we preserve the qualities we love?

You'll be along every step of the way with plenty of opportunities to weigh in and share your views. At the end of Phase 1 we'll emerge with a refined Future Land Use Map to guide us on the road ahead. Then we'll move into Phase 2 — updating our zoning code — to ensure that the rules that govern our local development are aligned with the community aspirations we're gearing up to map.

Beginning in October, the process kicks off with an online community survey where you can share your opinions on growth and get the project team off on the right foot. Make plans now to join us as we work to make thoughtful growth the default outcome as the city we love continues to evolve and mature.

Find opportunities to contribute and catch up on the latest news at www.planbentonville.com.

New in Public Art: *Cozy Apple* & Interactive Map

To celebrate Bentonville's 150th Anniversary, artist Gina Gallina created two pieces of artwork that "crochets" the past with the present. Her design is an apple-shaped inflatable wrapped in crocheted granny circles. The shape represents 40,000 acres of apple orchards in the 1870s when Benton County was one of the largest apple-producing counties in the nation.

The first *Cozy Apple* has been "roaming" to different outdoor locations since June. The second was fabricated with the help of local community members and is now on display at the Bentonville Public Library.

Scan the QR code to learn more about *Cozy Apple* and all of Bentonville's art on public property in our new interactive map.



By the Numbers

Building permit activity for the first half of 2023 are slightly lower than the first half of 2022. All permits are down 13% and single family permits are down by 33%. The exception is multifamily units, which is higher by almost 10% compared to last year.



Cozy Apple by artist Gina Gallina on display near city hall this summer.



Public Safety



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

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

2023 Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 8-14 Cooking Safety Starts with YOU

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove.



 Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org

Bentonville Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." The campaign works to educate everyone about simple yet important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the U.S. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. "Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

Bentonville Fire Department encourages all residents to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU" by offering these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire.

- **Watch what you heat.** Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking and set a timer as a reminder.
- **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.** Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- **Have a "kid- and pet-free zone."** Maintain at least three feet around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Bentonville, contact the Bentonville Fire Marshal's Office at 479-271-3108. For general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the burner.



 Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org



When your grill is in use, it should be kept in an open space, away from anything that might catch fire, including siding, deck railings, eaves, or tree branches. Never leave a lit grill unattended.

 Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org

Please join the Bentonville Police Department as we host our first *Trunk or Treat* at Memorial Park on Oct. 21, 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm.



TRUNK OR TREAT

OCT. 21, 2023
MEMORIAL PARK-SKATE PARK
401 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD
STARTS AT 11AM-1PM



Annual Fall Leaf Collection



Bentonville is again offering its annual Fall Leaf Curbside Pickup program starting Monday, Dec. 4 and ending Friday, Dec. 15. This program applies only to single family and duplex residential properties. Commercial properties and apartment complexes are not included. Please follow the steps below to ensure collection:

1. **Collect leaves.** Rake and collect leaves in sturdy, securely closed bags.
2. **Place bags.** Place bags as outlined in the rules below.
3. **Schedule.** Once bags are properly placed near the street, call 479-254-2059 OR e-mail falleafcollection@bentonvillear.com to schedule collection. Please schedule in one format only.
4. **Be patient.** Allow 24-48 hours for collection.

Rules for Fall Leaf Curbside Pickup:

- Schedule only when bags are at the curb and ready to be picked up.
- Leaves only. Limbs, brush, grass, or garbage will not be collected.
- Place bags correctly near the street: 10' from curb or edge of pavement/street; away from normal trash collection; and not in drainage ditches.
- City crews will only collect bags that have been scheduled and are placed correctly near the street.
- Due to the volume of collections scheduled, crews are unable to return calls. If you have specific questions, please contact Public Works Maintenance at 479-418-8688.

Self Disposal Available at Compost Facility

If not participating in the curbside pickup, property owners are responsible for self-disposal of leaves. Bentonville residents with a copy of a utility bill and photo ID can dispose of leaves at the Bentonville Compost Facility at 2000 NW A St. The facility accepts grass, leaves, limbs, and brush Monday through Saturday, 8 am – 4 pm. Note: The Compost Facility will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Flood-prone Areas Mapped

Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) Region 6, which includes the State of Arkansas, has published maps showing areas prone to flooding. The maps incorporate modern technology to estimate flood risk.

The maps are available on Bentonville's mapping website:

<https://bentonvillear.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>. It is published under the *FEMA Historical* data layer and titled *BLE-Flood Depth/Elevations*. When opened, this layer provides data on depth of flooding and estimated flood water elevations during a 100-year storm event.

For information on how to reduce property flood risk, request a site visit, or inquire about flood insurance, submit inquiry online at www.bentonville311.com or contact the stormwater coordinator at 479-271-3168.



COMING UP

Fall Tree Giveaway

Oct. 21
8 -10 am
Compost Facility

Lighting of the Square

Nov. 18
6 pm
Downtown Square

Freedom Frosty 5k

Dec. 2
8 am
Downtown Square

Bentonville Christmas Parade

Dec. 9
6 pm
Downtown Square



To report a service concern online visit:

BENTONVILLE311.COM

