



Upper Cut by Alvaro Bonfiglio

FEBRUARY 2024

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

479-271-5966 • www.bentonvillear.com

Letter from Mayor Orman

I know how wonderful Bentonville is, but it is always nice to receive recognition around the strong sense of community and collaboration that defines our beloved city! The recent acknowledgement as a Volunteer Community of the Year at The Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference was an awe-inspiring reminder of the dedication and generosity of all that live, work, and play here in our fine city. Reflecting on yearly achievements like this and the positive impact of 2023, there is no doubt the spirit of Bentonville is seen in the daily activities of our residents. As I reflect, I am reminded of a quote by Helen Keller: "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." These words embody the spirit of Bentonville for me and the strong sense of collaboration and "can do" attitude that serves as a source of success for our city. The time, vigor, and attention that each of you put into maintaining our strong sense of community inspires me daily and will forever be an immense source of my delight serving as your Mayor. I have watched neighbors help neighbors in countless ways over the last year and each time I am reminded of the kindness, respect, and consideration that Bentonville neighbors display

for one another. Your actions truly do make a difference!

In 2024, I want to extend the call for collaboration and to share and celebrate individual and organizational efforts in shaping Bentonville. I look forward to residents' input on PlanBentonville.com. Looking forward to the future of Bentonville, we want to find common ground and together preserve what we love and promote what we want. As we start a new year with much excitement and vigor, we want to get your thoughts to help shape our city's future. Everything we do in the city is inspired by you, so be sure to give us your thoughts at PlanBentonville.com. The future for Bentonville is bright and our sense of community is strong. As Mayor, I look forward to another year full of accomplishments, highlighting the bright future and strong community spirit that makes Bentonville thrive.

There are a myriad of individuals and organizations whose efforts have made a difference to Bentonville over the past year – certainly too many to highlight in this short New Year message – so here is my request for you. Please reach out and nominate any special person whose efforts have made Bentonville a better and brighter place through our Spirit of Bentonville Award. This award is one way we recognize the public efforts that truly showcase the heart of our city. Nomination forms can be found on The City of Bentonville website at www.bentonvillear.com. In addition, make plans to attend or listen in to our State of the City address to City Council in early February or our State of the City presentation to the public in early April, where we also give a nod to all our volunteers in conjunction with Volunteer Appreciation Month. Please contact my office for more details on each of these events.

As Mayor, I wish every member of our wonderful community a safe and a very happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to all the things we will accomplish together in 2024! If you have any specific questions or if there is anything my office can help you with, please reach out!

All My Very Best,

Stephanie Orman
Mayor of Bentonville



#BeTheBentonvilleDifference

Spirit of Bentonville Awards

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.

Oct. 2023 Recipient: **Anne Wells**



Karilea Magee nominated Anne Wells for using her skills to help others. Anne uses donated yarn to knit items for patient use at Arkansas Children's hospital, prayer shawls for the elderly, and "fiddle muffs" for Alzheimer's patients. She also teaches English via zoom to a woman from El Salvador through the Literacy Council of Benton County.

Nov. 2023 Recipient: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints received the Spirit of Bentonville Award in recognition of their efforts to support and provide transportation for persons in need in Bentonville.

Dec. 2023 Recipient: **First Bentonville Baptist Church**



First Bentonville Baptist Church was recognized for their *Love Your City - Love Your Neighbor - Love Your World* campaign. This campaign is focused on engaging with the city through regular acts of kindness. This includes participating in First Fridays, back-to-school events, fall carnivals, teacher appreciations, and feeding local athletic teams.

Dec. 2023 Recipient: **Compassion Coalition of NWA & Peggy Hicks**



Katie Hicks nominated Compassion Coalition of NWA (TCCNWA) and director Peggy Hicks for their two projects: Clothed with Compassion (CWC) and Miracle on 14th Street. Clothed with Compassion has provided over 5,500 individuals in NWA with new clothing and shoes totaling more than \$460,000 in donations. Miracle on 14th Street is held annually on the Saturday before Christmas providing 300 families with a new coat for everyone, a bag of groceries and household supplies, and a \$25 gift card for every child.

Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

The Great Neighborhood Partnership Program hosts the annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

Thank you to all neighborhoods that participated! A special shoutout to this year's winners: Creekstone and Hanover!



Landscape Awards

The Tree & Landscape Committee recognized the following properties for outstanding landscaping.



Countess Hodges received the Oct. 2023 Residential Landscape Award.



Skylight Cinema received the Oct. 2023 Commercial Landscape Award.



Introducing the new Adult Reading Program: Join the Book Marathon! Read 26 books in '24



Discover the World of Words with Bentonville Public Library's (BPL) diverse collection!

What's the Marathon? Read 26 books in a genre you typically avoid. Whether it's science fiction, romance, historical non-fiction, or any other genre that's new to you, this is your chance to discover hidden gems and new favorites. Explore our curated lists, mix and match or read all 26 books from one category!

Pick up your Book Marathon brochure at the library, start tracking your reading, once you finish 26 books from a new to you genre, turn in your sheet and get entered to win a prize!

Start your journey towards becoming a more versatile and adventurous reader. Every book is a new journey and every page is a step into uncharted territories. Let's turn the page together in the 2024 Book Marathon!

BPL: A Beacon of Inclusivity and Outreach



For many, a visit to the library is a straightforward affair. However, accessing the library's resources can be challenging for those facing physical, economic, social, or geographic barriers. Recognizing this, BPL has established its Outreach Services, ensuring that everyone can benefit from the library's vast offerings regardless of circumstances.

One of the standout features of this initiative is the provision for home-bound patrons. Whether due to age, illness, injury, or any other impediment, those unable to visit the library can still receive a curated selection of materials delivered straight to their doorstep.

Furthermore, BPL's engagement with the community extends beyond traditional library services. For instance, our Book Club Kits initiative offers a comprehensive package for book enthusiasts, facilitating discussions and fostering a deeper appreciation for literature.

The Bentonville Public Library is not just a repository of books; it's a living, breathing entity that evolves with its community's needs. Through its myriad services, programs, and initiatives, BPL showcases that libraries can be centers of innovation, inclusivity, and outreach, embodying the spirit of community service.

To learn more about BPL's Outreach Services visit our website at bentonvillelibrary.org or contact us at 479-271-3192.

BPL now offers the full collection of American Girl Dolls!

In early 2020, BPL introduced the Library of Things Collection to cater to the diverse needs of our community. This collection provides an extensive range of kits and items that patrons can access to promote discovery through hands-on interaction and exploration while also engaging our community by sharing resources. All of these resources are in line with BPL's mission.

We're excited to announce that our library's circulating collection now features twelve new American Girl Dolls, including Lila, the 2024 American Girl Doll of the Year. In addition, we've added a one-of-a-kind doll named Emma, specially designed to commemorate Bentonville's 150th anniversary. Emma's backstory was created with the help of the Bentonville History Museum and she represents the Bentonville of 1873.



Transportation & Streets

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



Under Construction

8th St. (SW I to SE J): Reconstruction and widening of 8th St. to include storm drainage, traffic signals, additional driving lanes, sidewalks and protected two-way bicycle path.

Water Tower Rd., Phase 2: Improvements to Water Tower Rd. from SE 8th St. to SE 14th St. Improvements include a shared use path, additional lanes, a new signal and removal of the railroad crossing.

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

Little Osage Trib 2: Channelization and bridge improvements along the upper portions of the tributary.

Lorem ipsum

NW 9th & D: Extend drainage collection system to NW 9th St.; including curb and gutter along streets.

SW Gator Blvd. (Morningstar to Gator Blvd.) Connection: Constructing approximately 0.57 miles from S Morningstar Rd. and the existing end of SW Gator Blvd. into a three-lane roadway with pedestrian/bicycle facilities.

Upcoming Project

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

For Street and Drainage Bond Project updates, visit www.bentonvillebond.com or scan code:



Downtown Parking Map Online

We all know and love visiting the downtown Bentonville area. Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/48miYHK> to access an up-to-date parking map. This map includes all the relevant information you need to know about available parking spots, proximity to the square, and information on public and private lots.



Navigating Bentonville's Growth: Stay Informed on Road Closures!

We know road closures can throw a wrench in your plans! But fear not, because we're here to make your journey through our growing city as smooth as possible.

To stay in the loop on road closures and detours, simply scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3Ts3Xjq>. We have real-time updates to keep you informed and help you plan your routes efficiently.





Parks & Recreation

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



Town Branch Park Renovations

Renovations continue at Town Branch Park, a one-acre, neighborhood pocket park just off the Bentonville Square. Goals of the project include bike interaction and circulation improvements, stream bank stabilization restoration, general landscaping enhancements, and social gathering space. The estimated time of completion is spring 2024. To learn more about Bentonville Parks and Recreation capital improvement projects, visit playbentonville.com.



Improvement plans for Town Branch Park.

Program

- 1 Multi-Use Area - Decomposed Granite with Stabilizer
- 2 Existing Park Sign
- 3 Stepped Block Stone
- 4 Stepped Ledgestone
- 5 ADA Van Parking
- 6 Bike Racks
- 7 Native Stone
- 8 Proposed Shade Trees
- 9 Existing Town Branch Creek
- 10 Future Art
- 11 Existing Greenway Trail
- 12 Accessible Walk
- 13 Concrete Steps
- 14 Focus Tree - Chinquapin Oak
- 15 Existing Shade Trees
- 16 Limits of Flood Plain
- 17 Limits of Flood Way
- 18 Elevated Sidewalk

Save the Dates

Make plans to participate in the 2024 Run Bentonville Race Series. The series consists of seven races including the Run Bentonville Half Marathon on April 6. Visit runbentonville.com for all event details.

Camp Bentonville 2024

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.





Planning & Development

479.271.3122 • bentonvillear.com/186/Development-Services

Bentonville Establishes Business Registry

The City of Bentonville appreciates all of the businesses that have chosen to locate in Bentonville. To connect with and support them while planning for our future, on Dec. 12, 2023, Bentonville City Council established a registry for all businesses with a physical location in Bentonville. The Bentonville Business Registry creates a central repository of up-to-date information about businesses located in the Bentonville city limits while offering benefits to the community, including the following.

- Business promotion with the online Business Registry Map. Businesses that opt-in will be shown on the public map.
- Staff to assist with the registration process and other questions related to starting a new business.
- Up-to-date information for our public safety teams that improves their ability to respond to emergencies with the best information.
- Guidance through permits and review processes to identify needs before getting too far along in the process, saving money and time.

Businesses can register online at www.bentonvillebusinessregistry.com. The deadline to register is July 1, 2024. The registration fee is \$25.00. Registration must be renewed annually for \$15.00. Renewals are accepted between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 each year. Details about the program, FAQ's and links to other permits that may be required are all on the website. For questions, contact: 479-271-3126 or businessregistry@bentonvillear.com.

PLAN BENTONVILLE: Shaping Our Future

Bentonville's 2018 Community Plan prioritizes thoughtful growth and Plan Bentonville is your opportunity to shape that vision with specifics.

Over the past several months, more than 1,400 community members have completed our initial online survey providing baseline data on who we are and what we value.



Now, mark your calendar for the week of February 26 when the Plan Bentonville team will conduct a week-long workshop asking the questions on how and where we want to grow. There will be multiple opportunities to review work in progress and share your thoughts.

We'll use that feedback to develop tools — like a Future Land Use map and updates to our zoning code — that make thoughtful growth the default outcome as the city we love continues to evolve and mature.

Get up to speed on the process and review the workshop schedule as it comes together at planbentonville.com.



Seeds of Bentonville on display at City Hall

In celebration of Bentonville's Sesquicentennial Anniversary in 2023, the past and present are brought together with the *Seeds of Bentonville* by Justin Deister, installed November 7, 2023. The shape of an apple slice represents the more than 40,000 acres of apple orchards in Benton County in the late 1800's. Inside the apple slice are 150 apple seeds. Imaged onto these seeds are words provided by local residents describing what they love about Bentonville.

By the Numbers - 2023

- 1,660 permits issued, up 12% from 2022.
- 1,076 residential units permitted, up 2% from 2022.
- 38 new commercial permits, down by one from 2022.





Public Safety



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

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

Spring Cleaning & Fire Safety

As you are cleaning out this spring, don't forget about fire safety.

Inside the home:

- Practice your home fire escape plan.
- Clean clutter inside and outside your home.
- Check your dryer vents and clean the hosing.
- Test smoke alarms and replace any alarms that are 10+ years old.
- Test carbon monoxide alarms and replace any alarms that are seven years old or older.
- Check the cords on your appliances. If any are cracked or frayed, repair or replace them.

Outside the home:

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

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY



Captain Thompson attends FBI National Academy

It is with great honor that we recognize Captain Justin Thompson for his recent accomplishment. Captain Thompson recently attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA for 11 weeks.

The National Academy provides advanced investigative skills, management, and fitness training to senior officers who are proven leaders within their organizations. The FBI's National Academy is recognized globally for its premier law enforcement training program. Captain Thompson returns to the Bentonville Police Department with a wealth of knowledge and lasting law enforcement partnerships.

We would like congratulate Captain Thompson for his dedication during his time at the FBI National Academy.



Citizen Police Academy starts March 1

The goal of the Bentonville Youth Academy is to create positive long-lasting relationships with our youth in order to better serve the community.

Applications for the Youth Police Academy will be available through School Resource Officers beginning March 1, 2024.



3RD ANNUAL CELEBRATION

BENTONVILLE

TOGETHER

A Multicultural Community Festival

MANY CULTURES. ONE COMMUNITY.

SAVE
T.H.E.
DATE

APRIL 27, 2024
(SATURDAY)
4:00pm - 7:00pm
ORCHARDS PARK
BENTONVILLE

- LEARN
- EXPERIENCE
- TASTE
- DISCOVER

Bentonville Parks and Recreation is hosting this family-friendly event to highlight the art, music, customs, and traditions from around the world and to celebrate the many cultures who call Bentonville home.

www.playbentonville.com/specialevents



BENTONVILLE GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Mobile Tool Shed

- Lawn Mower
- Edger
- Hedge Trimmer
- Drill and Tool Kit
- Safety Gear

Spring is on its way and that means tall grass, cleaning, and yard work is quickly approaching. Once your neighborhood is registered in the Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program, you will have access to reserve our trailer free of charge! Bring projects to life with community-powered access to essentials like a seed spreader, drill, hedge trimmer, and more.

Free to use for neighborhoods registered in our Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program. For more information, visit bentonvillegreatneighborhoods.com or email neighborhoods@bentonvillear.com

COMING UP

Plan Bentonville Workshops

Week of February 26

www.planbentonville.com

Irish 5k/10k Race

March 9

runbentonville.com

State of the City

April 4

5:30-8:30 pm

Bentonville Community Center

Run Bentonville Half Marathon

April 6

Downtown Bentonville

runbentonville.com

Spring Clean the Streets Day

April 13

9 am to 12 pm

<https://bit.ly/3HmV9nS>

Bentonville Connections

April 25

Bentonville Community Center

Spring Tree Giveaway

April 27

<https://bit.ly/47yj4Lr>

Multicultural Community Festival

April 27

4 pm to 7 pm

Orchards Park

City Offices Closed

and Delayed Trash Service

February 19 - Presidents Day

May 27 - Memorial Day Holiday

To report a service concern online visit:

BENTONVILLE311.COM

