FEBRUARY 2019

THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE

FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

Mayor Orman Sees Bright Future for Bentonville

Mayor Orman

As I write these words to you, I am increasingly excited as I visualize an incredibly bright future ahead for Bentonville in 2019. There is much to do and there are incredible opportunities ahead for our city. I have been entrusted with the honor of serving the citizens of Bentonville and I will be committed to serving each of you with a hard work ethic, transparency and integrity.

My administration will be focused on a collaborative effort by bringing people together and working together as we progress to find the best direction and solutions for our city. Strong cities get better when passionate people embrace the citizens' priorities and execute a plan to make the community better as a whole. We will be implementing new programs with the goal of accomplishing city needs by listening carefully, speaking clearly and respecting all. We will be retaining and choosing good people to fill positions while partnering with those that can advance our city's short & long term mission. We will operate with servant leadership and sound integrity in all we do.

The priorities in a growing city are to provide the best security, infrastructure and quality of life for all of our residents. A vibrant, safe, and clean city is the reflection of those who are responsible for its well-being. I am extremely thankful for the direction and leadership of Mayor McCaslin over the past several years that now passes a well-balanced and thriving city forward. During his tenure, his foresight and leadership saw many accomplishments that will benefit our city for many years to come. We are positioned to have immeasurable opportunities as we build on what is here and plan for the future. As your mayor, I am dedicated to the idea of making Bentonville the very best city in America to live, work, and enjoy life so that we will all share in the pride and success of our city.

There is much to do as we'll face both incredible opportunities and challenges as Bentonville's growth continues. I will be committed to serving all the people of Bentonville by being accessible, accountable and applying strong leadership. Our Leadership Team will overcome challenges by focusing on the concept that our responsibility is to move our city forward with the best interests of our residents as the top priority. Bentonville is very strong and positioned to be even stronger. With your support, we will tackle the issues we face by finding the best solutions and advancing appropriate opportunities as we unite in the effort to be the best balanced, most admired city in America.

Terry and Stephanie Orman with children Taylor and Landry

2018 Third Quarter

Outstanding Citizen Award Recipients

Ridhikaanth (Ridhik) Kalaiselvan & Kids Who Care Moms

Ridhikaanth (Ridhik) Kalaiselvan received an Outstanding Citizen Award in the youth category.

Maolina Yang, Bentonville High School counselor, nominated ***Ridhikaanth (Ridhik) Kalaiselvan***. Ridhik, is a senior at Bentonville High School (BHS) and at the time his nomination form was submitted, he ranked first in his class of 681 students. According to Ms. Yang, Ridhik is currently enrolled in the most rigorous Advanced Placement courses available at Bentonville High School, but Ridhik still finds time to volunteer in his community. During the summer of 2017, Ridhik was nominated for and attended the National Student Leadership Conference for Psychology and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School. Ridhik volunteered 81 hours at Northwest Medical Center during the summer. Sarah Herford, Teen Services Librarian, wrote in her letter of support, that Ridhik has been a committed teen volunteer since May 2015, providing over 243 hours of volunteer service to the library and also serves on the Library's Teen Advisory Board. Other civic organizations benefitting from Ridhik's giving back is Arkansas Children's Hospital and Northwest Arkansas Food Bank.

Sandy Clark nominated the ***Moms of the Kids Who Care Service Club***. Clark wrote applauding Mardee Clive, Tara Fleming and Kori Hatch for the leadership they provide to their fourteen children. Their faith, close proximity and desire to teach their children the meaning of service to others brought these three families together in 2013. Ms. Clark wrote that these magnificent mothers are helping their children make a difference in the lives of many, especially other children. They started by planning small service projects each month such as working in an animal shelter. With the help of their moms, the children plan one big annual event, such as a backyard carnival or outdoor movie night. They invite neighborhood children to help provide the games, serve the food, prepare signs, and decorations. Each annual event has at least 60 neighborhood volunteers. At the entrance to each carnival, there is a booth called "Awareness Alley" which provides [illegible] for attendees to under[illegible] the initiative the ev[illegible] supporting. The [illegible] have benefitted several [illegible] tives, including the Children's Shelter birthday drive to make sure that children staying at the shelter can celebrate their birthday. They raised money to purch[illegible] brailler for a young boy that was going blind, and provided the Down Syndrome Foundation and Bright Futures Bentonville money to purchase laundry detergent and toilet paper.

Mayor Bob McCaslin initiated The Outstanding Citizen Award program in January 2011 to recognize the exceptional volunteer contributions of Bentonville residents.

Mardi Clive, Tara Fleming and Kori Hatch with Moms of the Kids Who Care received and Outstanding Citizens Award in the group category.

Mayor Orman intends to continue the Outstanding Citizen Award program. Nomination forms are available online at www.bentonvillear.com. The deadline to submit first quarter nominations is March 31.

Bentonville Public Library

Technology for All: Introducing iPads for Checkout!

Bentonville Public Library is excited to announce the addition of iPads to our collection of technology available to patrons.

Quick Facts!

Other technology available includes computers, laptops (in-library use), and telescopes!

- 10 iPads available
- iPads can be placed on hold
- iPads have cellular data- no wifi needed!
- iPads preloaded with Library & learning apps
- iPads can be checked out for 1 week at a time (no renewals)
- iPads can be checked out to patrons ages 10+ (with responsible party consent)

Tell Us What You Think!

This February and March, visit the Library's website for a new survey! Whether you use BPL regularly, sporadically, or do not have a library card … we want to know the good, the bad – and, we really want to know why you don't have a library card (yet!). The online survey is short and easy at bentonvillelibrary.org.

BLF5: Turning the Page

BLF5, "Bentonville's Fifth Annual Literature Festival: Turning the Page!", features festival events throughout the calendar year, highlighting authors and illustrators of books for all reading audiences. Look for BLF5 to celebrate stories with special offerings incorporated into current library events, presentations of unique programs, and collaborations with schools for author visits.

We invite all readers to join us in turning the page by celebrating a new chapter of Bentonville's Literature Festival. Watch for details about BLF5 events this year at bentonvillelitfest.org!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Safe Driving Lessons for Teens
March 13 and April 3

ACT Prep Workshop
March 4, 11 and 25

Teen Advisory Board Application Period
May 1-31

Teen Volunteer Summer Training
May 6 and May 9

Summer Reading Club Sign-up Begins
May 4

Bentonville GeekCon
May 4

"Flushable" Labels Can Be Misleading

Bentonville's beauty is in the rolling landscape with hills and valleys. Do you ever wonder how your wastewater gets over a hill to the treatment plant? Probably not as long as it continues to get over that hill, right?

Bentonville has 58 pumping stations that lift wastewater from lower areas up to the main wastewater line where gravity can move it on to the wastewater plant for treatment. When operational issues arise, an electric surveillance system sends an alarm to the wastewater facility if the water level reaches a predetermined high level. Maintenance workers respond immediately making electrical repairs, changing or cleaning pumps or whatever is needed to restore flow from the station.

In addition to the alarm system, daily lift station inspections are necessary to assure the floats that activate the pumps are functioning properly. Grease, rags, wipes, diapers, hygiene products and a slew of other non-biogradable items wreak havoc on lift stations. Cooking grease solidifies on the surface of the water impairing the equipment's ability to send high level alarm signals to activate the pumps. This can cause sewer back-ups or overflows, which spread bacterial contamination into homes, yards and streets. Non-biogradable items clog pumps and get tangled around equipment causing them to clog or the alarm system to malfunction. When pumps are clogged they run continually, making the pumps unable to remove water.

Clogged pumps increase the cost of electricity and reduces pump life. Pump rebuilding or replacement and trucks to vacuum out rags and debris all add to the cost of wastewater treatment. Lift stations in some sections of the city require weekly pump outs and repeated trips to remove tangled items from pumps, floats and other equipment. Clogs and malfunctions can cause sewer overflows and backups in homes. Increased maintenance results in increased costs which in turn could result in rate increases. Please help us protect the environment, prevent sewer backups in homes, and keep maintenance costs down.

Please flush only toilet tissue. Place all other items in the trash. Flushable means it will go down the commode; it does not mean it should.

Avoid Contamination of Recyclables

One of the leading issues facing the recycling industry today is contamination.

Restrictions from major buyers in the recycling market have limited the amount of acceptable goods. Recycling services are forced to limit items they can receive and implement stricter guidelines on what items are deemed free of contaminants.

Due to the single service collection of recyclables, it is imperative to only have approved items that are free from contaminants such as food, liquids, and glass. Republic Services and the City of Bentonville would like your help in adhering to these simple guidelines.

PARKS & Recreation

Square 2 Square Bike Ride May 18

Mark your calendars for the Square 2 Square Bike Ride on Saturday, May 18th! The Square 2 Square Bike Ride follows the Razorback Greenway. The spring ride starts in Fayetteville and finishes in Bentonville. Fun for all ages! Total distance one-way is 30 miles. Riders are welcome to start at any point along the trail if not able to ride entire 30 miles.

SQUARE 2 SQUARE BIKE RIDE

Ride Start: 8 am - 10 am
Post Ride Celebration: 10 am - 3 pm
Register at www.playbentonville.com

Along the course, participants can enjoy three festive pit stops featuring entertainment, bike maintenance services, and basic ride refreshments. All riders receive a finisher medal, shirt, and more!

Optional shuttles (by reservation) available to the starting area, before and after the ride. Shuttle reservations can be made when registering.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY THE NUMBERS:
2018 Development Activity

Permitting data indicates continued growth in Bentonville. Bentonville's current population estimate is 49,629, an increase of 4.2% from 2017. The number of building permits issued was 1,732, up 11% from 2017. The total valuation of all building permits was nearly $500 million, an increase of 25% from 2017. The number of building inspections

RESIDENTIAL

Residential development continues its upward trend. In 2018, a total of 1,519 residential units began construction, an increase of 68% from 2017.

In 2018, 487 single-family houses began construction and 494 were completed. The average size of a new single family home was 2,883 square feet.

2018 was a record year for multifamily developments, with 1,032 units that began construction and 372 completed. In fact, multifamily units made up 41% of all residential units completed. The size of multifamily units appears to be getting larger, with an average size increasing from 1,089 square feet in 2017 to 1,460 square feet in 2018.

2018 Highlights

11% increase in building permits

Value of all permits was **$500 million**

Construction began on **1,519 residential units**

16.5 million square feet of commercial development began construction

COMMERCIAL

Construction began on more than 16.5 million square feet of new commercial and 46 new commercial projects were completed, an increase of 59% from 2017. In terms of the number of permits issued, alterations and additions to existing facilities made up 69% of all commercial building permits.

ADOPTED!

City Council adopted the Bentonville Community Plan on October 23, 2018. The Bentonville Community Plan is the official comprehensive plan for the City of Bentonville.

The plan serves as a roadmap for the community as it evolves, grows and changes over time. The plan articulates a vision for Bentonville that reflects the community's aspirations while respecting the unique character and defining sense of place that distinguishes Bentonville from other places. It addresses land use, commerce, mobility, open space, public facilities, infrastructure, and sub-area plans. The plan is online at:

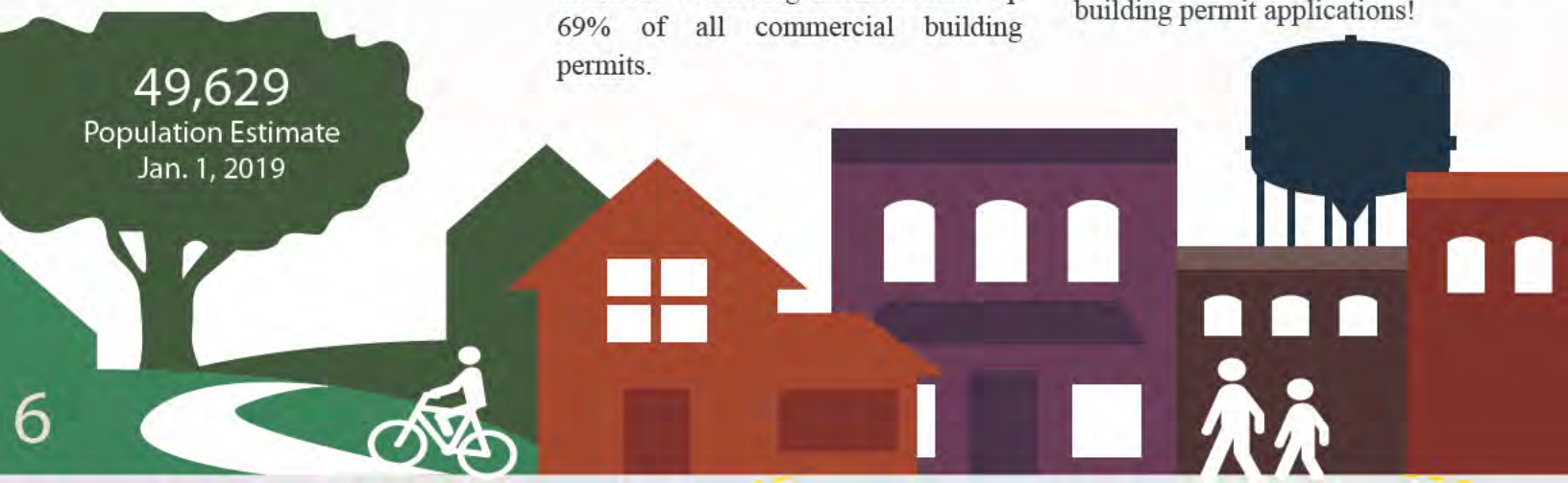
www.bentonvillear.com/259/Bentonville-Community-Plan

Planning Applications Go Digital

As of December 1, 2018, all planning applications, including rezoning, variances, subdivision and developments will only be accepted online through eTrakit. The city's website contains several resources to help users get started on eTrakit:

www.bentonvillear.com/1008/Using-eTrakit

Coming soon: Online submittal of building permit applications!



PUBLIC SAFETY

New Emergency Communications and Operations Center

The City of Bentonville will soon have a new Emergency Communications & Operations Center to ensure continued quick responses for 911 and non-emergency calls for service. As the city grows, the need for emergency services will also be in demand. This new facility will have space to add additional 911 telecommunicators on duty for each shift and will include an emergency operations center to use during a natural or man-made disaster. The new center will be approximately 26,000 square feet in size and the 911 Center will be better equipped to withstand natural disasters. The Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division will move into the facility and operate in the adjoining first and second floors.

The current/existing building will be repurposed to house the Police Department's Patrol and Operations Division. Construction of the new facility is expected to be completed at the end of August 2019 to allow a smooth transition of services by September.

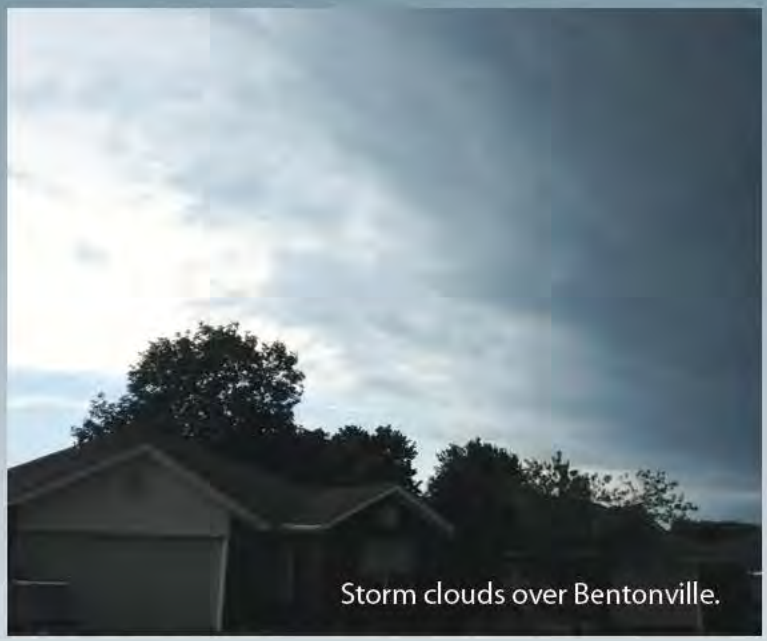
SW Fire Station Under Construction

Mayor Stephanie Orman is proud to announce Fire Station #7 is under construction in southwest Bentonville with completion planned for the Fall of 2019.

The state-of-the-art facility is located at 4508 S.W. Prime Avenue. The station will have three apparatus bays and one truck wash bay. It will also include living quarters for six firefighters and a Battalion Chief, plus a substation office for the Bentonville Police Department.

The entire facility will have a total of 9,472 square feet on two acres. The architect is Jackson Brown Palculict of Little Rock. The construction manager is Clinard Construction Management of Bentonville.

Storms and Urban Drainage


Storm clouds over Bentonville.

With population increases, Bentonville has seen a spike in residential development. Private single-family home properties under one acre are not subject to drainage design requirements like large-scale residential and commercial development. Urban development can create runoff concerns.

In recent years, Bentonville has seen heavier storm events over shorter time periods. With recent rainfall intensities increasing, flooding potential increases. Urban flooding can be outside the FEMA regulated flood zone. The recently approved Bentonville Community Plan recommends the city encourage urban private property owners to utilize pervious pavers, rain gardens, rain barrels etc. to address localized drainage issues. The plan recommends that new development leave vegetated buffers for wetlands and use open spaces for drainage. Private land owners, large-scale developers, volunteer organizations, and city officials must work together to develop reasonable solutions to city drainage matters.

SPRING EVENTS

MAR	2	Irish 5K/10K, Bentonville Community Center, 7 a.m.*
	30	Run Bentonville Half Marathon, Bentonville Square, 7 a.m.*
APR	5	First Friday: *Going Greener*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
	5	First Friday Flix: *Incredibles 2*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
	20	Easter at Orchards, Orchards Park, 1p.m.
	20	Farmers Market start of the season, Bentonville Square, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MAY	3	First Friday: *Power of Music*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
	3	First Friday Flix, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
	4	Second Annual Bentonville GeekCon, Bentonville Public Library
	16	Rock and Splash: *School of Rock*, Lawrence Plaza, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	23	Magic in the Park: *Joey Williams*, Lawrence Plaza, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	18	Square to Square Bike Ride*, Razorback Regional Greenway
	30	Yappy Hour: *Bert and Heather*, Bark Park, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
JUN	7	First Friday: *Living Local*, Bentonville Square, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
	7	First Friday Flix: *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, Lawrence Plaza, 8:30 p.m.
	13	Rock and Splash: *Red Ambition*, Lawrence Plaza, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	20	Magic in the Park: *George Reader*, Lawrence Plaza, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	27	Yappy Hour: *Jesse Dean*, Bark Park, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Activities are free of charge unless indicated by an asterisk. (*)

Farmer's Market is every Saturday April 20 - October 26.