ET 182 FROM THE CITY OF BRYANT ARKANSAS

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### Mayor's Corner APRIL 2020

Wow, what a month we have had! The city has been diligently working addressing concerns and responding to information that we have been receiving. I wanted

you to know that while we have had to modify some of our processes and procedures, we are still here to serve you.

Our departments are operating as close to normal as the directives that the Governor and President allow. We are attempting to conduct the majority of our business via the internet or phone. If meetings are required, we are conducting them under social distancing guidelines.

We are continuing to look at several projects to complete in the city. However, we do not know the impact this pandemic will have on our budget, so we will continue to be cautious in our current spending. In an attempt to be proactive, I curtailed all non-essential city spending on March 25th.

Our Police Chief, Fire Chiefs, and Public Works Director are also taking every precaution they can to address public safety and to protect their employees.

We are continuously monitoring the safety and wellness of those most vulnerable in our community. We are working with businesses and community leaders to ensure best practices are being put into place that are to the benefit of our residents. This is a new situation for all of us, so many are adjusting standard operating procedures on an almost daily basis. Please be patient, and if you see something that concerns

## CHIEF'S CORNER



As you read this column, our day to day lives have already been turned upside down by the Coronavirus / COVID-19. We have all had to make changes to the way we go about our daily activities in order to halt the rapid spread of the virus. As we adjust to the "new norm" since the outbreak, the men and women of the Bryant Police Department will continue to provide the same level of professional service as before the outbreak. Safety protocols will change the way we handle our responsibilities and we will have to adapt as a community to these changes. If you have any questions about why something was done the way it was done, you're welcome to contact the police department for clarification. Stay safe! **#BryantStrong** 

#### Carl Minden

Chief of Police | Bryant Police Department 312 Roya Lane | Bryant, AR 72022 | Phone: 501-943-0371 you while shopping, report it immediately to the store owner or management.

Rest assured, the city of Bryant, is, has, and always will work for the best interests of our city and those who reside here. We encourage you to continue following the Governor's recommendation regarding social distancing, avoiding crowds, limiting socialization to within your family only, and whenever possible-- please stay at home.

If there is anything we can do to assist you, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

## Mayor (Allen E. Scott



# NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

#### Public Works Professionals IT STARTS HERE

Public Works Professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that help provide sustainable, resilient communities. Public Works' services help to safeguard public health and well-being while maintaining Quality of Life for the community. Infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of Public Works professionals such as managers, operators, technicians, inspectors, and employees at all levels. They are responsible for building, maintaining, and improving transportation, water supply, water treatment, solid waste management, stormwater management, and other operational essentials that keep the city functioning at an optimal level. The year 2020 marks the 60th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association. This week is designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

# **Bryant Animal Control**

Join us in honoring the special men and women who answered the call to serve their communities as ACOs. These officers must not only know how to defuse situations, they must be investigators, enforcers, but also must "talk" to the animals, and understand what the animals are telling them. They must have an understanding of basic veterinary care, genetic abnormalities, and animal behavior for dozens of different species. They are part law enforcement, part rescue, part cleaning crew and customer service all wrapped up into one. They truly are a special breed of public servant.

#### Tricia Power

Director, Bryant Animal Control & Adoption Center



# The 2020 Census is in Full Swing!

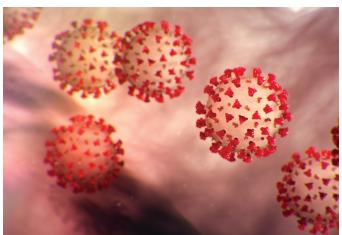
Did you know the census is a Constitutional requirement that is vitally relied upon by many areas of our society? It provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community.

Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. Every person counted in Bryant means more federal dollars coming to our community. Everyone Counts!



CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OLD ARE AMONG POPULATION GROUPS HISTORICALLY UNDERCOUNTED IN THE CENSUS.

"Children today deserve the best possible health, education and community services. They can't count themselves — they're counting on you to count them."



# Bryant School District: Overcoming Challenge

COVID-19 has taken a huge toll on our entire Bryant community. On Thursday, March 12, our district was reeling from the call we received that we would not be back at school until after spring break. A few days later, all districts in the state were given the same directive. One week later we received the news that all schools would be closed through April 17.

Bryant Schools has been challenged by the issues that go along with having school while students are not physically present. Our staff, however, has met the challenge and completed an online instructional plan to provide the best education to our students in these difficult times. Not only have they provided a strong, viable curriculum, but have also created a plan to provide Chromebooks and mobile hotspots (wi-fi) to our families that do not have access to one or both of those important devices.

"Our staff, however, has met the challenge and completed an online instructional plan to provide the best education to our students in these difficult times."

Bryant Public Schools realizes that our primary goal is to provide premier educational services to our students, including students with disabilities. We also want our community to know that we are here to help with other needs our families may have. During this time we continue to provide breakfast and lunch by serving grab-and-go meals and deliver meals to those who are not able to drive to our campuses. Our Parent Center will continue to provide essential hygiene items.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our Bryant families during this unprecedented and stressful time. We want to help our community as we pull together to get through this state and national crisis. Now more than ever we must all be there for each other. We have an awesome community that will emerge stronger when this is over.