

Letter From the Mayor JANUARY 2021

Dear Residents of Bryant,

Welcome to 2021! Who would have thought a year ago our world would look like it currently does? While there were clues of what may have been coming in January, I do not think anyone would have thought that things would get as bad as they did. We survived a

lockdown in the Spring, saw the schools close their doors nine weeks early, and saw numerous businesses forced to close temporarily in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19.

These measures were an effort to impact the spread of a contagion that we did not fully understand. I think it helped slow the infection rate; however, none of the measures we put in place could fully stop the virus. COVID-19 is insidious because people can have so many different responses when they become infected. Some people have no symptoms, while others become incredibly ill. This diverse immune response makes it extremely difficult to control without a vaccine. Thank goodness scientists worked tirelessly to develop vaccines that started occurring in mid-December. Hopefully, everyone who wants the vaccine can get it very soon. If not for themselves for their friends and family members who are immunocompromised and cannot receive the vaccine themselves.

The pandemic has, however, continuously shown the resiliency of the people of Arkansas, and our Bryant residents. So far, we have adapted when needed as our businesses continually pivoted to provide goods and services to our community. We have utilized platforms such as Zoom, Facetime, and social media to keep in touch with our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

Over the past few months, we have witnessed our schools modify classes to allow for online education, ensuring that if our kids could not attend school in person, they at least had options for continued learning. Each child is different in their needs and skills, some excelling at online courses, while others prefer a more standard school setting. The Bryant School District has done everything they can to try and support all of these kids as much as possible. No matter what we see moving forward, I believe some form of virtual school is here to stay.

Perhaps the most significant achievement this fall was that the Bryant Hornet Football team had another undefeated season and won the 7A State Championship for the third time in a row. Winning the Championship would have been an incredible feat during a regular year, but it is truly a phenomenal accomplishment with the pandemic's additional challenges.

So I encourage each of you to continue wearing masks as needed, maintain social distancing, and continue to wash your hands during this time. By doing so, we are doing our own small part to slow the spread as we get vaccinated and ultimately gain control of this situation and create a more positive outlook for the new year.

I wish each of you a healthy and blessed 2021.

Thank You,

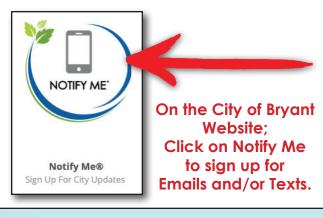
Mayor Allen E. Scott

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Join us via Youtube the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am for Virtual Coffee with Mayor Allen Scott. http://www.youtube.com/c/BryantArkansas

Next Event is February 6, 2021

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City Youtube Channel

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